~THE STRONGEST BRIDE ... RTH~

SUMOMOMO MOMOMO

3

SHINOBU OHTAKA

The strongest bride on earth.

Sumomomo Momomo.3

Shinobu Ohtaka

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SUMOMOMO,MOMOMO

15. HEAVENLY WARRIOR HORSE MASK (3)

AN ASSASSIN ...

WHAT NOW...!?

I WILL DISPATCH THIS COWARDLY ASSASSIN...

LEAVE THE SITUATION TO ME.

ZA (ZSH)

!

THAT'S RIGHT. I'VE GOT HER TO RELY ON...

WEST
EAST
RAT
OX
TIGER
RABBIT
HORSE
SHEEP
MONKEY
ROOSTER
ENEMIES
DRAGON
SNAKE
DOG
BOAR
ALLIES
I AIN'T NO ASSASSIN, HERE.
I'M HIKARU NAKAJIMA, MASTER OF SANTERA-RYUU 'N' MEMBER OF THE EASTERN ARMY.
NO ENMITY!
I'S JUST COME TO CHALLENGE INUZUKA-DONO...TO A "DUEL"!
WHY WOULD AN ALLY BEAR ENMITY AGAINST KOUSHI-DONO?
YOU'RE... AN ALLY?
L-
LOVE?
A DUEL ...
...OVER LOVE...

INU-ZUKA-DONO ...

...AND MARRY MY FIANCÉE!

...I'M GONNA BEATCHA UP...

...IS A DISPLAY OF STRENGTH IN FRONT OF YER GAL.

IN MY CLAN, TH' TRADITIONAL COURTSHIP CEREMONY ...

DUEL OF LOVE

MARRIAGE

FIANCÉE

"WHOSOEVER IS FOUND INCITING A DUEL OR ACCEPTING A CHALLENGE TO DUEL"—

LAWS OF THE MEIJI ERA, LAW 34: "IN THE CASE OF DUELS...

WH-WHAT CEREMONY?

YOU'RE JUST JUSTIFYING VIOLENCE, YOU BRUTE!

SHE'S MAH BETROTHED! I LOVE HER!

DON'T YOU GO THERE

NO... DON'T YOU DARE

PLEASE?

TA MARRY ME!
THAT'S ALL I WANT!
TA ACCEPT ME.
I JUST WANT HER...TA LOVE ME.

...ALL I WANT...
AAAAH...
THAT'S...

STOP THAT, YOU!

PLEASE ACCEPT THIS DUEL, KOUSHI-DONO.

SFX: KOSO (SNEAK KOSO

THIS IS A LOT MORE THAN JUST A "MOMENT OF MY TIME"!

EXCUSE ME?

...BUT PLEASE!

I REALIZE WE'RE TROUBLING YOU FOR A MOMENT OF YOUR TIME...

YOU KNOW THIS ISN'T AN ISSUE OF ME HAVING THE TIME FOR IT!

BUT PLEASE!

I REALIZE IT IS A NUISANCE!

OKAY?

I DON'T WANT TO DO IT...

.....?

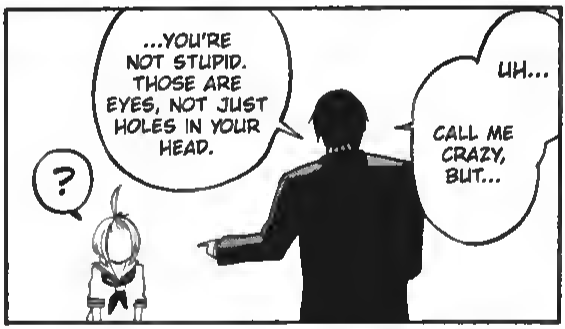
.....?

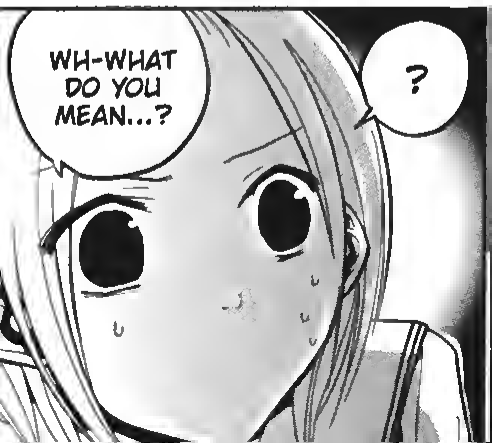
...THAT HAD ACCOMPANIED HIS EVENTFUL RELATIONSHIP WITH MOMOKO.

...KOUSHI FINALLY REALIZED THE LONG-RUNNING SUSPICION...

AT THAT VERY MO-MENT ...

WHY... ARE YOU LOOKING AT ME LIKE THAT...?





WHY THE FALSE MODESTY?

SFX: GAKU (SHAKE) GAKU GAKU GAKU

!!!

NO!

SHE NEVER EVEN NOTICED!!

I'VE ROOTED—

ARRGH!

AS YOUR WIFE—

YOU IDIOT!

YOU'RE NOT MY WIFE! HOW HAVE YOU NOT NOTICED THAT!?

HOW!?

EN GARDE ...!!

NO...

NOOOO ...!!

ゴゴゴゴ

GOGOGOGOGO (GRRMMMM)

...BUT ALSO TO ANYONE CONNECTED WITH THE DUEL ITSELF! NO EXCEPTIONS!
...THAT THESE STRINGENT PUNISHMENTS APPLY NOT ONLY TO THE PARTIES OFFERING AND ACCEPTING THE CHALLENGE...
YOU WILL FIND ...
I USED MY BRAINS TO TALK MY WAY OUT OF IT!
"PUNISHMENTS FOR THE CRIME OF DUELING"!

... TURNING YOUR BELOVED FIANCÉE INTO A CRIMINAL!!
...BY THROWING THIS GAUNTLET, YOU ARE EFFECTIVELY ...
IN OTHER WORDS ...

IN OTHER WORDS, RESPECT AND LOVE...!
...IS A BOND OF HUMAN TRUST TO CONSUMMATE THEIR RELATIONSHIP.
...WHAT A HUSBAND AND WIFE TRULY NEED...
AND EVEN MORE IMPORTANTLY ...
.....

...IF YOUR BELOVED ONLY CARES FOR YOU BECAUSE OF THE AMOUNT OF WEIGHT YOU CAN LIFT...

AS A MAN...

...BY STRIKING AND BEATING ANOTHER PERSON LIKE ME...?

IS THAT SOMETHING YOU WOULD GAIN...

THIS SHOULD DO IT...

IF THAT DOESN'T CONVINCE HIM, NOTHING WILL...!!

...WILL THAT TRULY MAKE YOU HAPPY?

...IS JEST A LIL' BIT OVER MY HEAD...

I THINK ALL YER FANCY-PANTS *TOKYO* JAPANESE ...

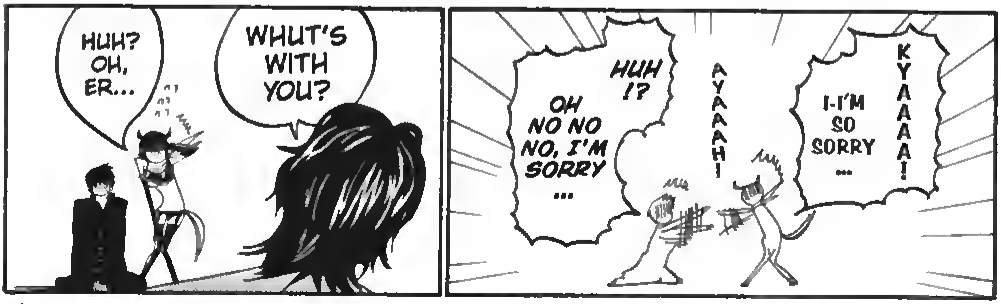
...SPEAKS THROUGH HIS MARTIAL ARTS...
BIKI (GRRR)
THIS IS TYRANNY ...!!
BIKI
BIKI
BIKIKIKI
SOME-ONE...
I WILL NOT INTERFERE! I PROMISE!
GREAT, THANKS...
YOU'RE ALL ABANDONING ME TO DIE...
WELL, SOMEONE... ANYONE...!!
IS HE TOUGH?
ONII-CHAN DODGED MY BLADE!
YES!

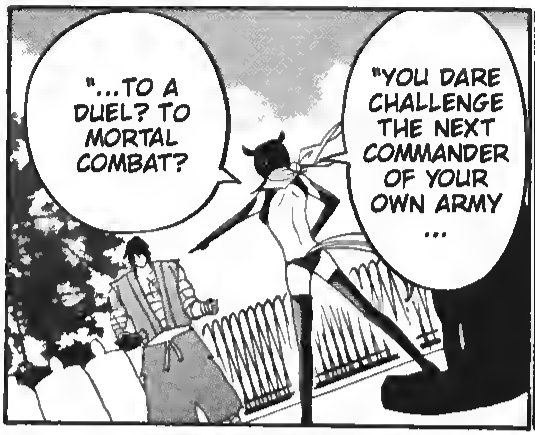
...SAVE ME...
...FROM THIS NIGHT-MARE!!
(GA (DOKK)

CLASS REP...?
HUH...?
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, INUZUKA-KUN...?
DEAD WRONG !!
WRONG!
クワッ
KUWA (GRAAD)
SFX: FUSA (FLAP)
...WHO LOVES HER TOWN AND LOVES PEACE AND GOODNESS!
...BUT A SIMPLE HERO...
I AM...
BIKU (FLINCH)
ビクッ

DON (BOOOM)
I AM HORSE MASK!!
AND I WILL ACCEPT THIS CHALLENGE IN YOUR STEAD!
WHO!?
BWAAAH

OH!

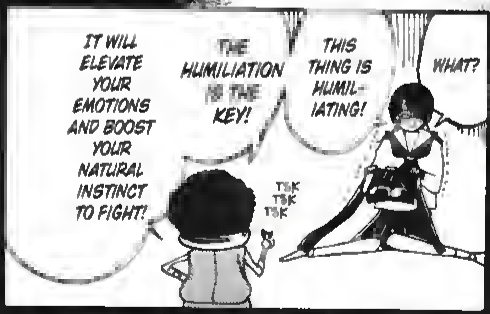

HUH? OH, ER...
WHUT'S WITH YOU?
OH NO NO NO, I'M SORRY ...
HUH !?
AYAAAH!
I-I'M SO SORRY ...
KYAAAAA!


"...TO A DUEL? TO MORTAL COMBAT?
"YOU DARE CHALLENGE THE NEXT COMMANDER OF YOUR OWN ARMY ...

I HAVE A MESSAGE FOR YOU...
...FROM SANAE-SAN.

...!!

"YOU SHOULD BE ASHAMED!" ...SHE SAYS.


IT WILL ELEVATE YOUR EMOTIONS AND BOOST YOUR NATURAL INSTINCT TO FIGHT!
THE HUMILIATION IS THE KEY!
THIS THING IS HUMIL-IATING!
WHAT?
TSK TSK TSK

...YOU CAN FINALLY CONQUER YOUR WEAKNESS! YES, YOU WILL BE ABLE...
BY CONTROLLING YOUR FEAR...

DON'T WORRY... NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF...
THAT SPECIALLY-CONSTRUCTED CORSET NOT ONLY INCREASES YOUR PHYSICAL STRENGTH, BUT ALSO YOUR STRENGTH OF WILL.

SFX: ZAWA (MURMUR) ZAWA

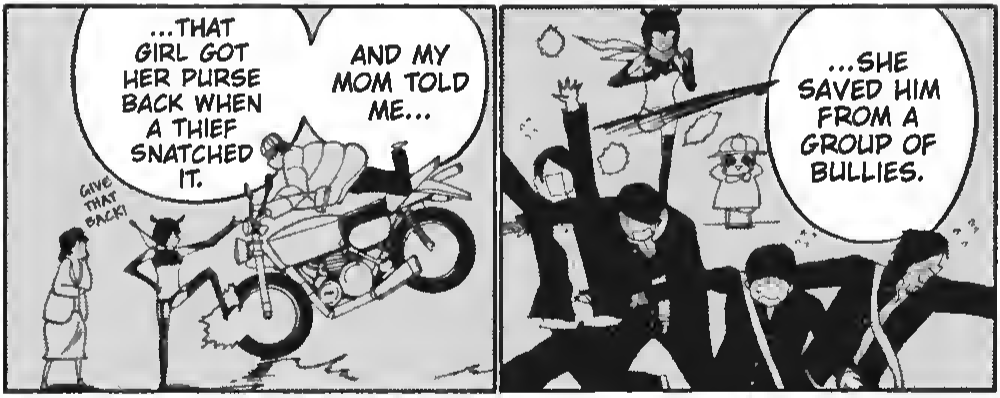
THAT'S THE CHICK PEOPLE ARE TALKING ABOUT!

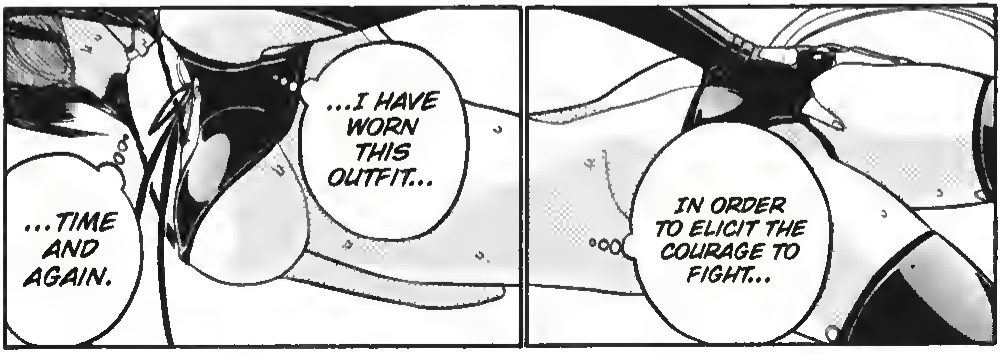
YEAH, THE HERO AROUND TOWN!

MY LITTLE BROTHER SAID ...

SH (SHH)

...TO FIGHT THE MEN WHO FRIGHTEN YOU SO!





.....
CHIRA (PEEK)
...AND IT'S STILL JUST AS MORTIFYING AS EVER!!
BUT...
...I MUST WITH-STAND THE SHAME!
KAAAA (BLUSHHHH)
...I WILL PROTECT YOU TODAY.
GU (CLENCH)
UNLIKE THE LAST TIME, WHEN I COULD ONLY STAND BY AND WATCH...

...TO FIGHT?
!
ARE YOU PREPARED ...
SHE WILL ACCEPT THE RESULTS AS YOUR DISPLAY OF COURTSHIP.
THEREFORE, I HAVE COME AT SANAE-SAN'S REQUEST TO FIGHT IN HIS PLACE!

YOU BET!
ZA CZSHHD

NOT TODAY!
I WON'T RUN AWAY...

CHAPTER 15, HEAVENLY WARRIOR HORSE MASK (3) – END

16. HEAVENLY WARRIOR HORSE MASK (4)

DON (BOOM)
FIGHT!!
DO (DMM)
I'M GUNNA WIN!
JEST YOU WATCH ME!
SANAE-SAN!
SANAAAAAE-SAAAAAAN!!

I AM WATCHING ...
ON THE IN-SIDE
I KNOW I'M WEARING THIS STUPID THING...
...FOR THE COURAGE TO FIGHT...
じっ……
JII (STARE)
...BUT STILL, IT'S SO EMBAR-RASSING ...!!
ぎゅう
GYU (CLENCH)
FIGHTING IS THE ONLY WAY I CAN PROTECT INUZUKA-KUN.

AS LONG AS I CAN FINISH WHILE I'M STILL IN THIS FORM...

SANAE, YOU REALIZE THAT THIS VERSION...

...ONLY PROVIDES 20% OF YOUR FULL POTENTIAL.

SFX: ZAWA (MURMUR) ZAWA

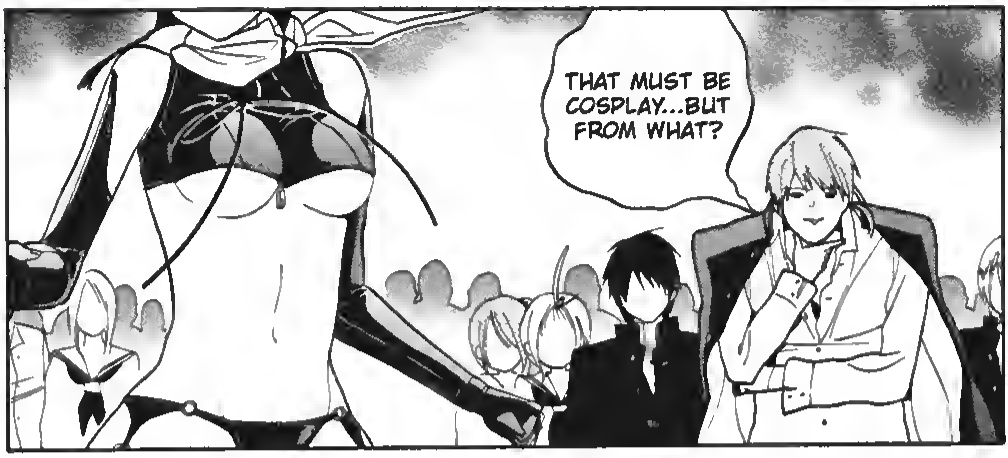
.....

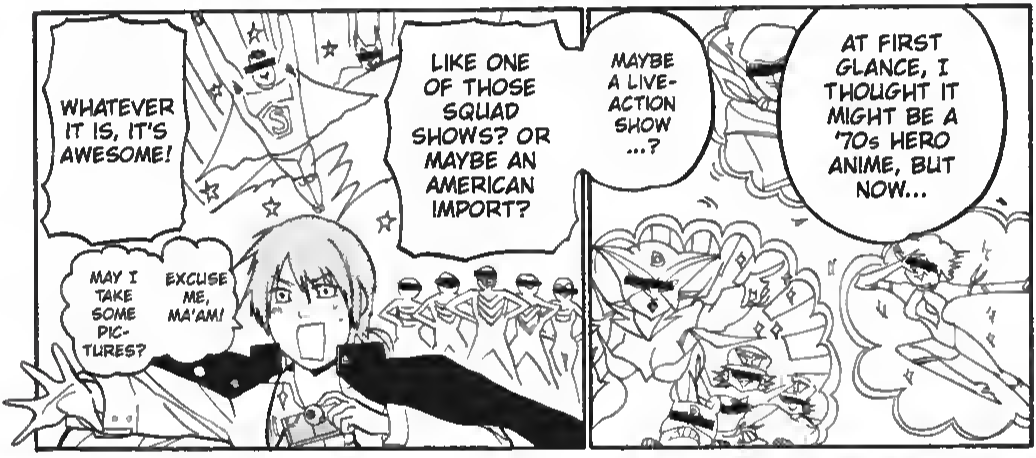
WHO COULD THAT BE?

I'M SAVED.

WAIT A MINUTE...!!

OH!


THAT MUST BE COSPLAY...BUT FROM WHAT?


WHATEVER IT IS, IT'S AWESOME!
LIKE ONE OF THOSE SQUAD SHOWS? OR MAYBE AN AMERICAN IMPORT?
MAYBE A LIVE-ACTION SHOW ...?
AT FIRST GLANCE, I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE A '70s HERO ANIME, BUT NOW...
MAY I TAKE SOME PIC-TURES?
EXCUSE ME, MA'AM!

SORRY ABOUT THIS...
DA (DASH)

PLEASE DON'T MIND HIM. PLEASE.
PASHA (CLICK)
PASHA
PASHA
PASHA
PASHA

BUT I WANT...
!!
DO (BAM)
DO
DO
DO
DO
...TO WRAP THIS UP...
...NICE AND QUICK!!
ZUBAN (ZBAMM)

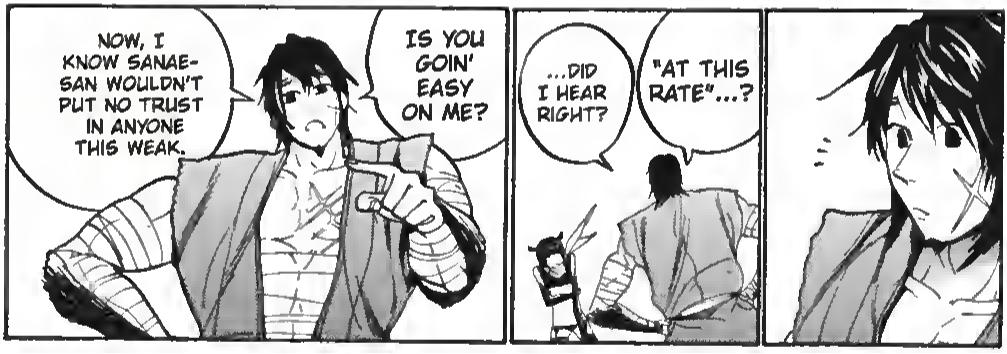
WHAT DO YA CALL THAT?
WAS THAT A KICK...?
A REAL KICK...
BUN (ZWOOP)
THAT FLUFFY LITTLE TAP AIN'T NO KICK.
GA (GRAB)
!!!

ZUDON (ZABOOOM)

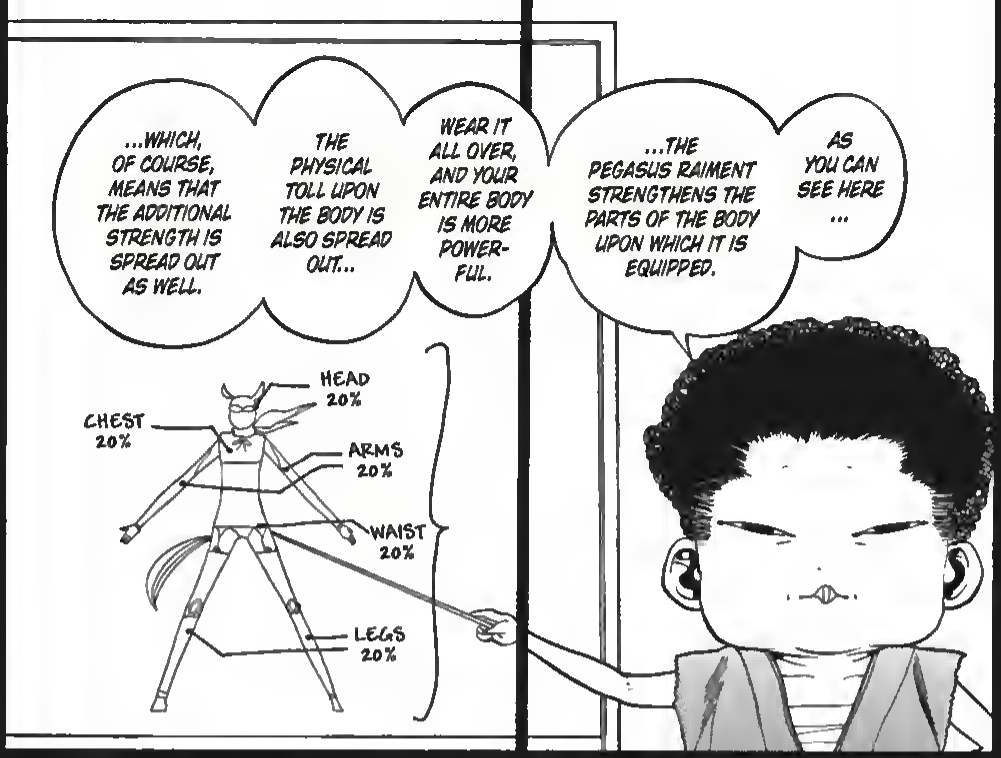
.....

SO...!!
!!
HE'S SO...
DDON (KABAM)

I GUESS HE REALLY IS THE STRONGEST MAN FROM THE BRANCH FAMILIES!
I CAN'T WIN...
NOT AT THIS RATE...
YER WEAK.
SO POWER-FUL...!


NOW, I KNOW SANAE-SAN WOULDN'T PUT NO TRUST IN ANYONE THIS WEAK.
IS YOU GOIN' EASY ON ME?
...DID I HEAR RIGHT?
"AT THIS RATE"...?

LISTEN TO ME, SANAE...
...YOUR FULL POWER!
SHOW ME...


...WHICH, OF COURSE, MEANS THAT THE ADDITIONAL STRENGTH IS SPREAD OUT AS WELL.
THE PHYSICAL TOLL UPON THE BODY IS ALSO SPREAD OUT...
WEAR IT ALL OVER, AND YOUR ENTIRE BODY IS MORE POWER-FUL.
...THE PEGASUS RAIMENT STRENGTHENS THE PARTS OF THE BODY UPON WHICH IT IS EQUIPPED.
AS YOU CAN SEE HERE ...
HEAD 20%
CHEST 20%
ARMS 20%
WAIST 20%
LEGS 20%

.....
YOU REALLY WANT TO KNOW?
NIYA (SMIRK)

...TO MAKE IT 100%?
THEN WHAT CAN I DO...
...A KICK ONLY DOES 20% OF ITS POTENTIAL DAMAGE.
IN THAT CONFIGU-RATION ...
LEGS 20%

SFX: GOGOGOGO (GRUMBLE) GOGOGOGO
ゴゴゴゴ
...IT'S VERY SIMPLE...!!

SFX: BASH! (SNATCH) BASH!
WELL YOU SEE...
...HEE HEE HEE!

YOU JUST TAKE IT OFF!

GYAAA

AAA

AAA

AAA

AAA

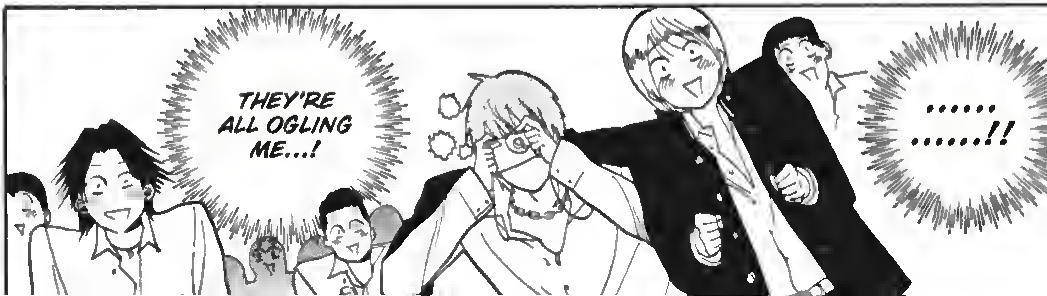
AAAH

JUST TAKE OFF ALL THE PIECES...

...THAT YOU DON'T NEED!

.....
.....!!

THEY'RE ALL OGLING ME...!



I CAN'T TAKE THIS...
GAKU (SLUMP)
.....
...THEN MAYBE INUZUKA-DONO WILL.
WELL, IF YOU AIN'T GONNA FIGHT ME...
!
THEN SHOW ME THE GOODS.
NO!
NO, YOU CAN'T ...

SHOW ME (YOUR BOD)!
SHOW ME (YOUR BOD)!
.....
SHOW ME THE GOOOOODS!
HA
HA
HA
HA
WA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
*SANAE-VISION
INUZUKA-KUN...!!

...I CAN DO THIS... FOR YOU...
ALL RIGHT...
INUZUKA-KUN...
SFX: SU (SHH)
I'LL SHOW YOU...
CHII! (ZIIIP)
SH-SHOW ME...?
!!

IS SHE TAKING IT OFF!?

どよっ

DOYO (BABAM)

CAN SHE TAKE ANY MORE OFF!?

WHAT'S IT GONNA BE?

A STRING BIKINI'S MY BET!

SFX: PASHA (CLICK) PASHA PASHA PASHA

STOP THAT!

STOP IT!

YOU CAN'T!

I'M NOT WORTH IT!

*SANAE-VISION

SFX: SHURU (SLOOP)

INU-ZUKA-KUN...!

JIIN (MOVED)

TH-TH-THIS IS PUBLIC EXPO-SURE!

SHUT UP, INUZUKA!

AAAAH!

GOODY TWO-SHOES!

HOLD HIM BACK!

I-DON'T MIND, INUZUKA-KUN...

I...

シュル...

BA (FWLIP)
...I THINK...
GUI (SLIP)
...I CAN DO THIS...
...FOR INU-ZUKA-KUN'S SAKE ...!!
I CAN BEAR IT...

I WOULD DO ANYTHING FOR HIM!!
BAAAN
CROOOMO

THEY'RE JUST STRINGS!!

WHOOOOOOA!

!!!

BIKUUUU (TWINGGG)

AAAAAAAH

AAAAAAAH

SFX: PASHA (CLICK) PASHA PASHA PASHA

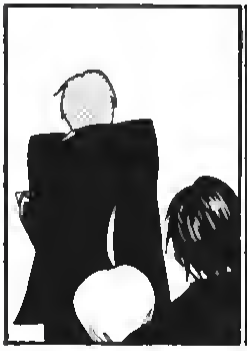
CONCENTRATE POWER IN THE LEGS!

!!

.....

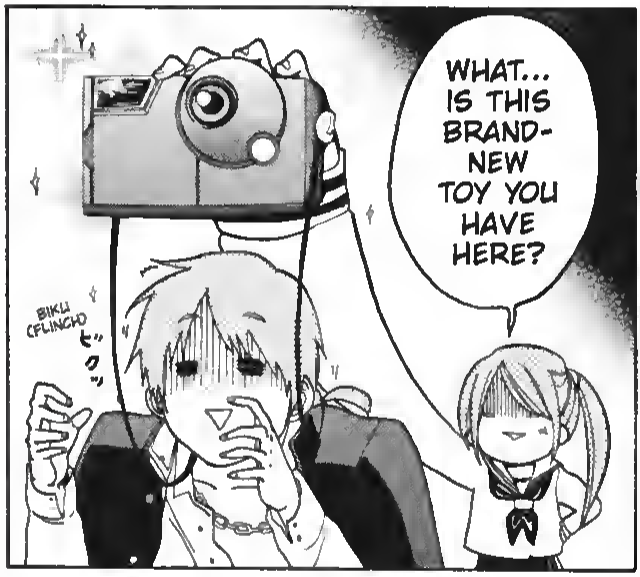
KAAAA (BLUUUSH)

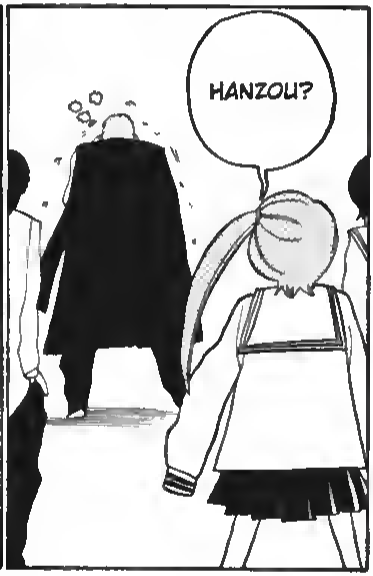
IS SHE CONDENSIN' ALLA HER STRENGTH INTO HER LEGS...!?

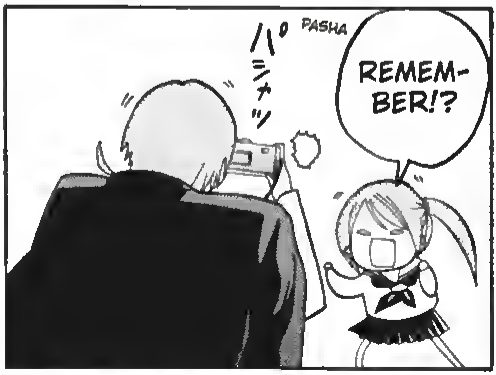


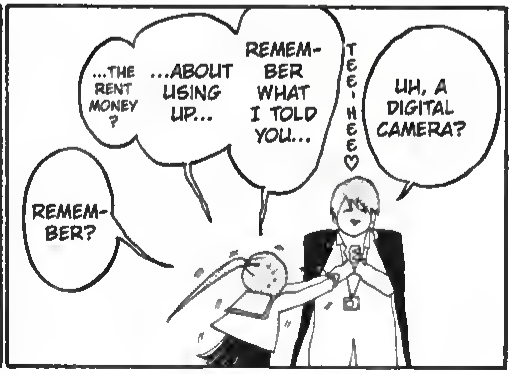
.....
...WAIT.
"CLICK"?

DON'T MIND HIM, PLEASE.
PASHA (CLICK)
PASHA
PASHA
PASHA


WHAT... IS THIS BRAND-NEW TOY YOU HAVE HERE?
BIKU (FLINCH)
ビクッ


HANZOU?


PASHA
ハミチン
REMEM-BER!?


...THE RENT MONEY?
...ABOUT USING UP...
REMEM-BER WHAT I TOLD YOU...
TEE-HEE♡
UH, A DIGITAL CAMERA?
REMEM-BER?

BUWAA (BWOOOM)

WASTED... BY THAT CRETIN..

MY CLAN'S RESTO-RATION FUND...

MY MONEY ...

SFX: PASHA (CLICK) PASHA PASHA

THE "SHINGO WILLPOWER PEGASUS RAIMENT" ...

I'M GOING TO SAVE INUZUKA-KUN...

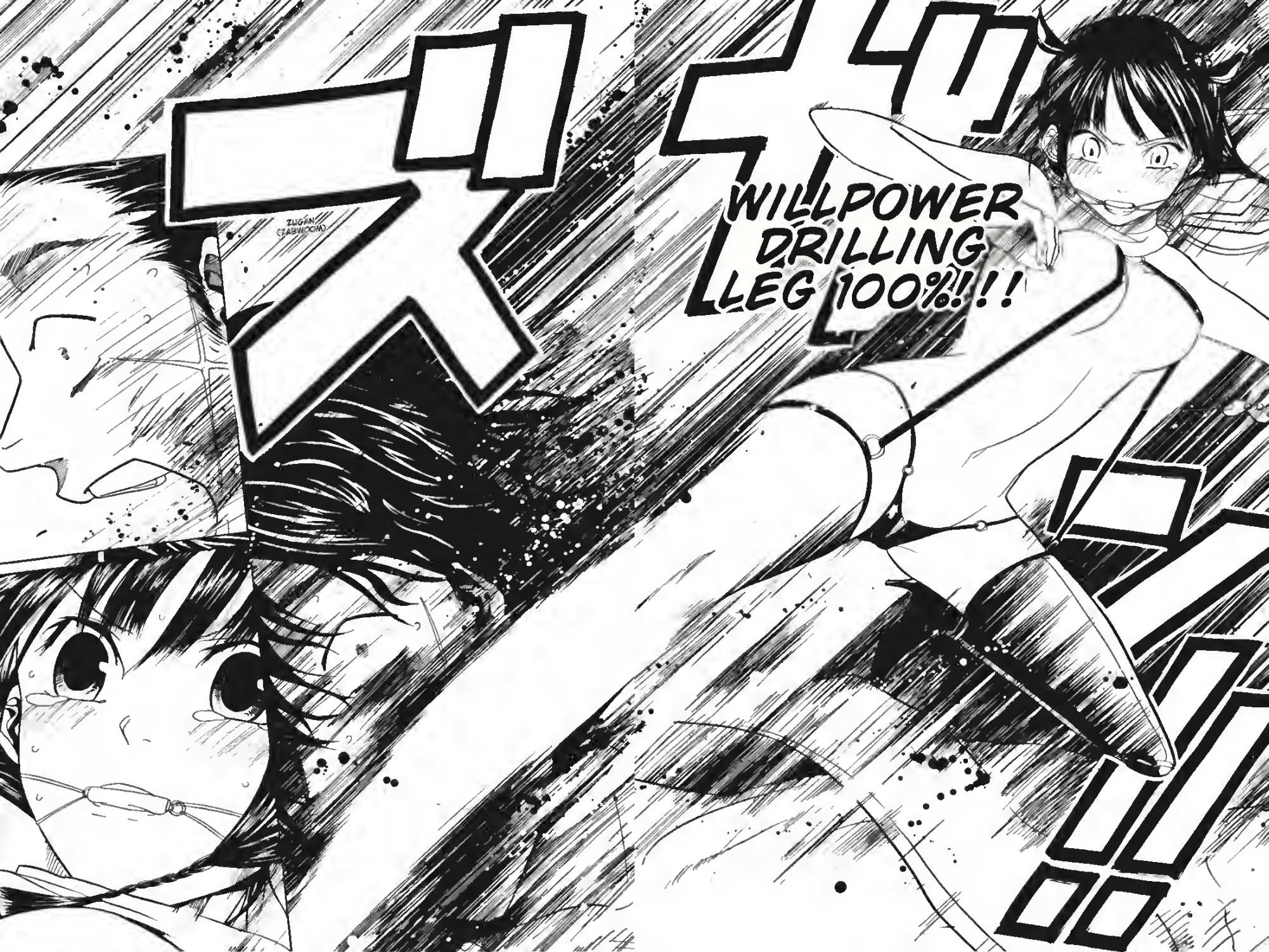
HYUOOOOOOOO (WHOOOOOSH)

THE LEGENDARY CONVERTIBLE CORSET...

I'VE HEARDA THIS BEFORE ...

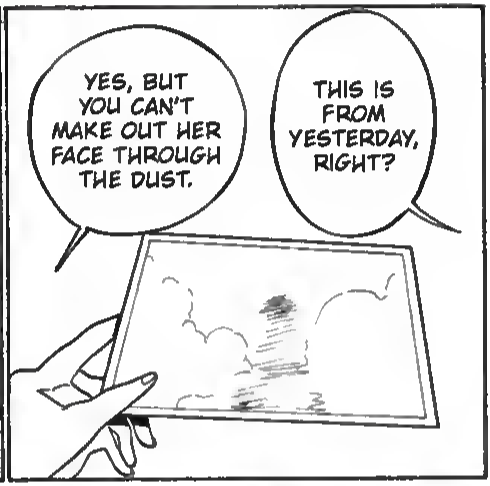
CAN IT BE!?

AND NOW...
...FULL POWER !!
BA (FWUP)
HUH !!?
SA...
...NAE—


ZUGAN (ZABWOOM)
WILLPOWER DRILLING LEG 100%!!!

DOU (DMMM)
I PROTECTED YOU...
HAAAH
THANK GOOD-NESS...
I DID IT...!
HAAAH

...INUZUKA-KUN...



SFX: ZAWA (MURMUR) ZAWA ZAWA

HEAVENLY WARRIOR
HORSE MASK

PHOTO SALES
SMALL – ¥100
LARGE – ¥500

INQUIRE FOR WHOLESALE RATES

ONE SHOT: ¥100

ENLARGED PRINTS: ¥500

SFX: WAI (WHEE) WAI WAI

UH, CLASS REP?

...AND EVENTUALLY WAS CEMENTED INTO LEGEND.

OH, EASILY!

YOU'D BETTER MAKE BACK THE COST OF THE CAMERA.

CHAPTER 16. HEAVENLY WARRIOR HORSE MASK (4) – END

17. BREAKING THE STALEMATE

HAAAAA ...

KOOOOO (FWOOO)

コオオオオー

HAIRA ...

...ICHI-DEN MUSOU-RYUU...

... SECRET ART!!

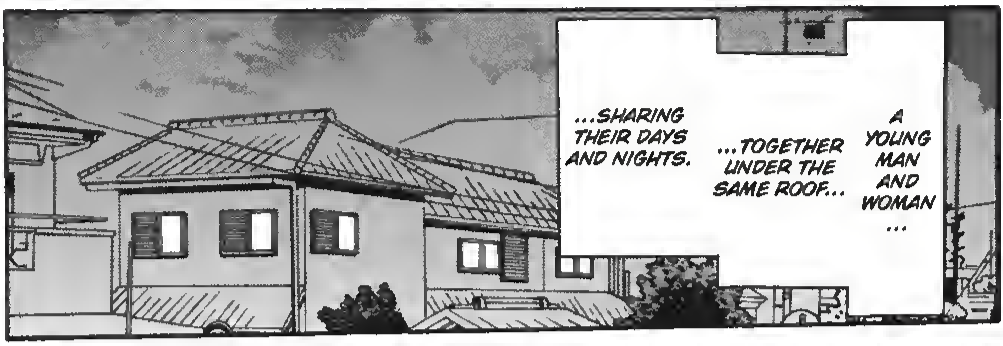
KUWA (GRAAAH)

クワッ

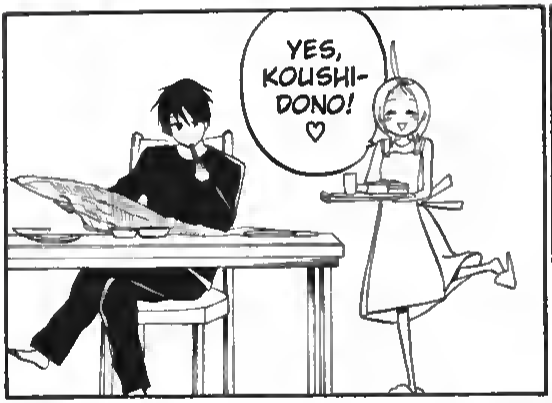
DODOU (DADOOOM)

ドドド

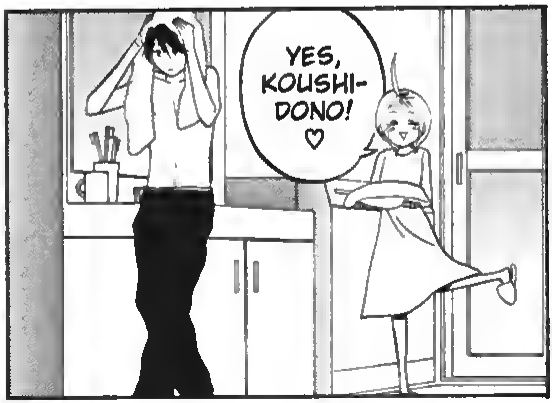
HYUOOOO (FWOOOM)
ヒュオオオ…
ピカーッ
PIKAAAA (SHIIINE)
I SHOT THE CLOUDS...
...AND IT ONLY OPENED THE VERY TINIEST OF HOLES...
.....
FATHER... I FEAR MY FEMININE STRENGTH IS INSUFFICIENT.
IN ORDER TO MAKE UP FOR MY LACK OF STRENGTH...
ピカーッ
PIKAAAA
...I MUST PUT EVEN GREATER EFFORT INTO MY TRAINING!
HELLO? I'M HOME...
OH!
COMING!
OH MY.
LOOK AT THE TIME!
SILLY ME!
I MUST PREPARE DINNER.
WELCOME HOME, DEAR.
IF YOU HADN'T FIGURED IT OUT BY NOW, MOMOKO AND KOUSHI ARE LIVING TOGETHER.


A YOUNG MAN AND WOMAN ...
...TOGETHER UNDER THE SAME ROOF...
...SHARING THEIR DAYS AND NIGHTS.

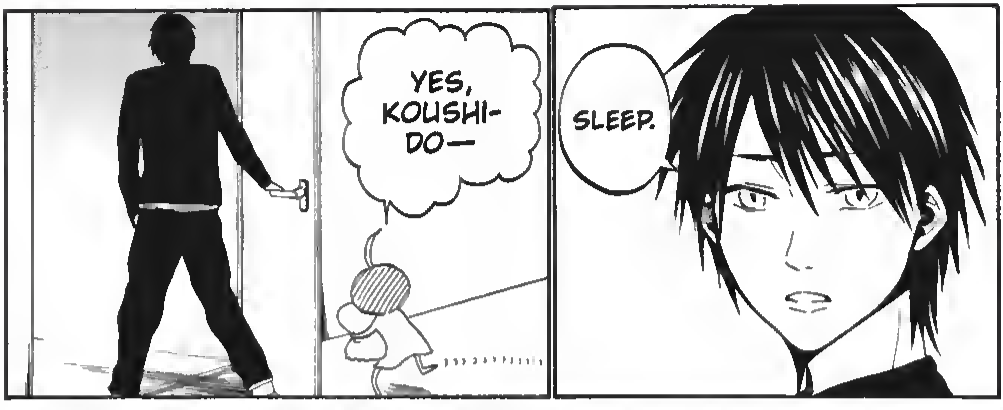
DARE WE GAZE UPON THE SORDID DETAILS OF THEIR PRIVATE LIFE TOGETHER!?


YES, KOUSHI-DONO! ♡

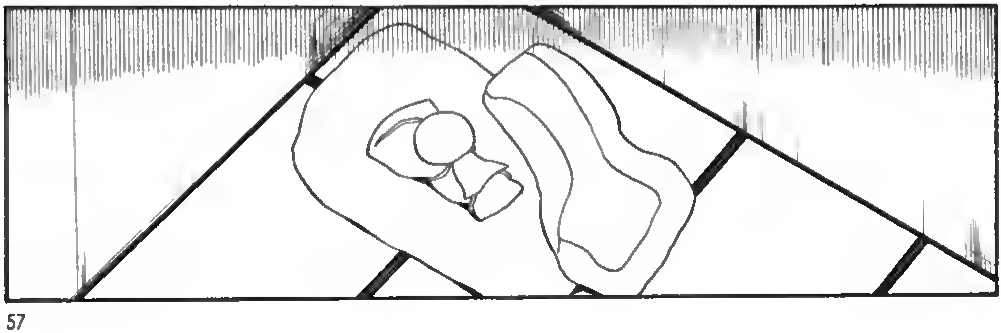
FOOD.


YES, KOUSHI-DONO! ♡

BATH.


YES, KOUSHI-DO—
SLEEP.

...GOOD NIGHT.
WELL...



NATIONAL HOLIDAY

I FEEL SO EMPTY...

Something is lacking.

SOMETHING... SOMETHING IS LACKING, I FEEL!

EXAGGERATION

...THE PROPER LIFESTYLE OF A HUSBAND AND WIFE WHO HAVE PLEDGED THE REST OF THEIR LIVES TO ONE ANOTHER?

CAN THIS TRULY BE...

KAAA (ZZZZ)

GAAAA (VMMM)

You're sick of your husband?

But ...

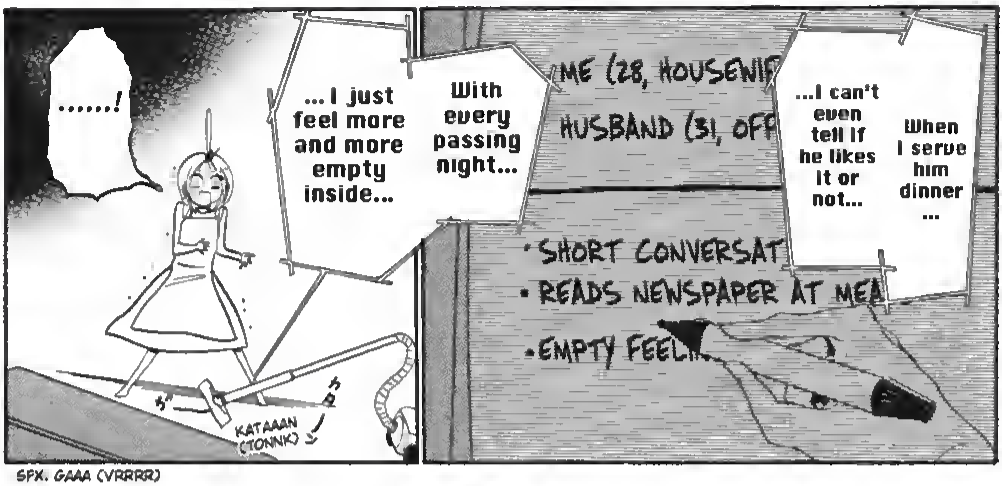
Oh no... I love him very much.

This is a call-in TV show for housewives.

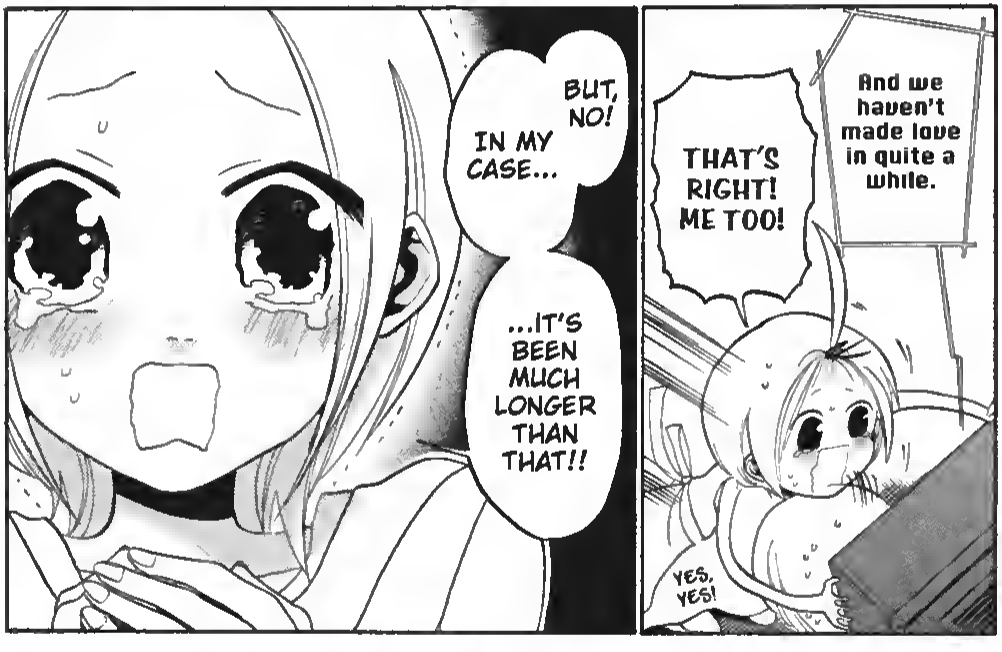
LISTEN TO THIS!

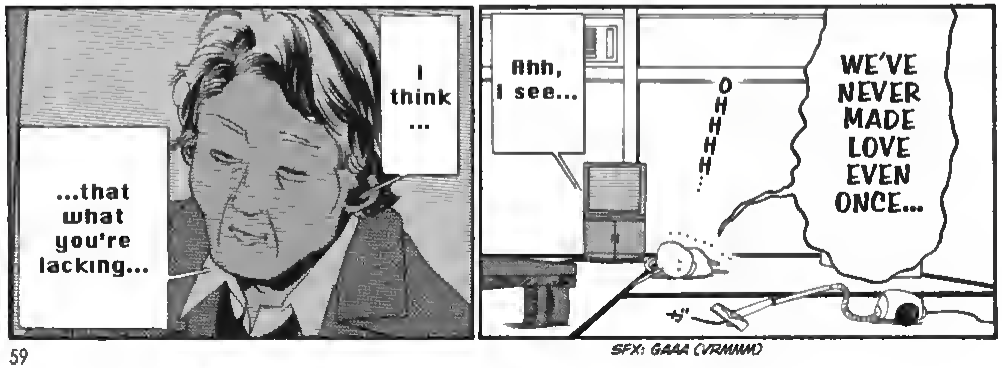
ALL DAY PHONE CALL

Tell us about your day-to-day troubles.

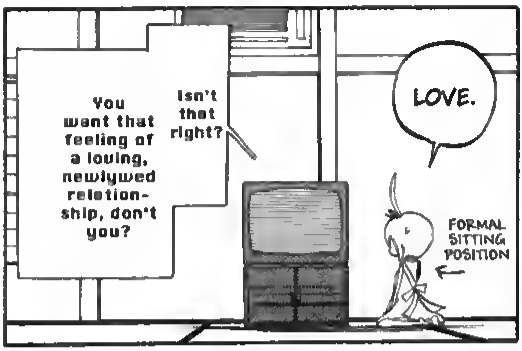


SFX: GAAA (VRRRR)





SFX: GAAA (VRMMM)


You want that feeling of a loving, newlywed relation-ship, don't you?
Isn't that right?
LOVE.
FORMAL SITTING POSITION

...is your hus-band's ...
... "love," ma'am.

...four tips.
...I have here...

In order to get what you desire...

KAAAA (ZZZZ)
TELL ME, MINO-SAN!
And how can she get that, Mino-san?
YES, I DO!

THAT'S IT!

.....!!

THE FOUR SECRETS TO GETTING YOUR HUSBAND TO PAY ATTENTION TO YOU!

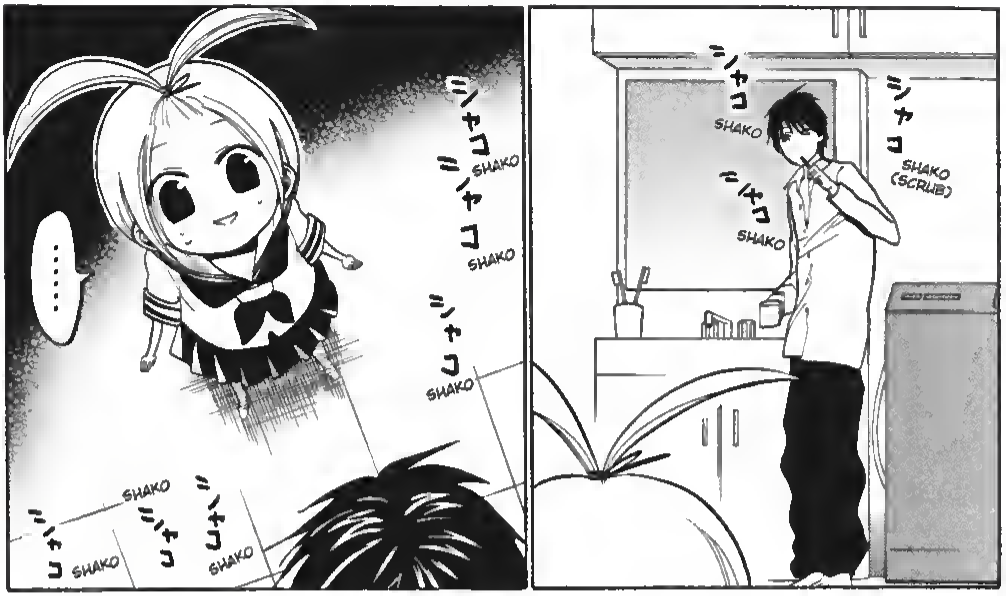
SFX. SHAKO (SCRUB) SHAKO SHAKO SHAKO

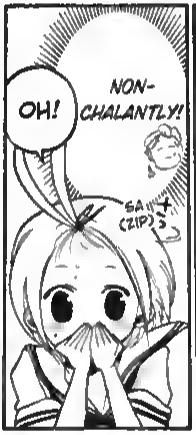
NEXT MORNING

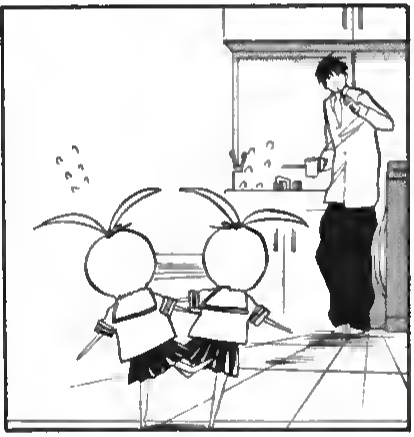
GOOD MORNING...

...KOUSHI-DONO.

NUMBER ONE: CHANGE YOUR HAIRSTYLE!
NONCHALANTLY CHANGE YOUR HAIR, AND YOUR HUSBAND WILL BE DELIGHTED.
ニョキ
NYOKI
ニョキーン
NYOKIIIN (BYOINK)

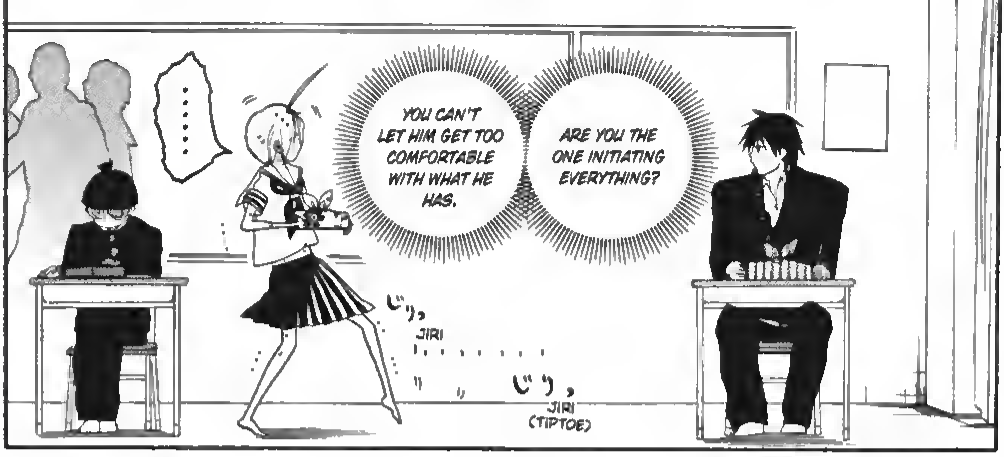


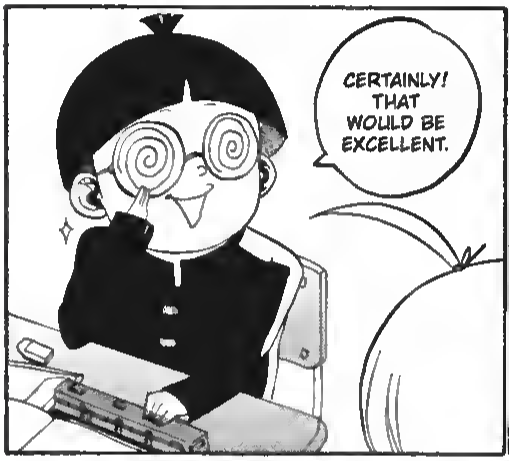


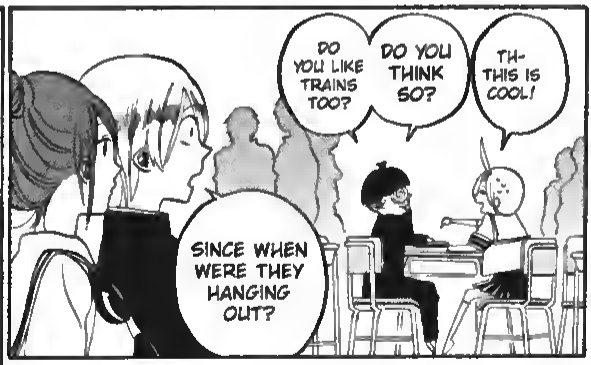


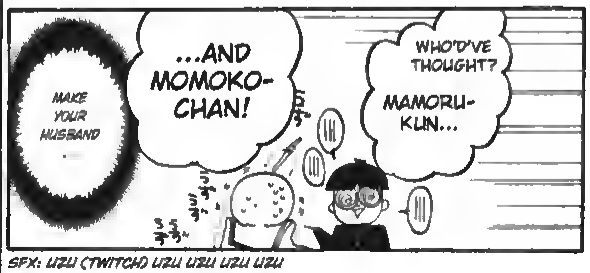
SFX: CHI...CHIRA (P-PEEK)

THERE ARE STILL THREE MORE SECRETS.
N-NO WORRIES ...
BACK TO NORMAL
H-HE REFUSES TO NOTICE!
LET'S GO.
KIIIIN KOOON (DING-DONG)
KAAAN KOOON (DING-DONG)
NUMBER TWO...
IF BEING AGGRESSIVE DOESN'T WORK, TRY WITHDRAWING.
KOOON
KAAAN
PURU
PURU (SHIVER)
PURU
KIIIIN KOOON









SFX: UZU (TWITCH) UZU UZU UZU UZU

HEE HEE HEE

AH HA HA

YES, I LIKE THOSE TOO!

"HEAVY-FREIGHT TRANSPORT"?

DANGER... SO HEAVY...

SO ARE THEY.

DANGER...

DANGER...

...OOON

WE HAVE SO MUCH IN COMMON!

THIS IS GREAT!

?

Y-YES!

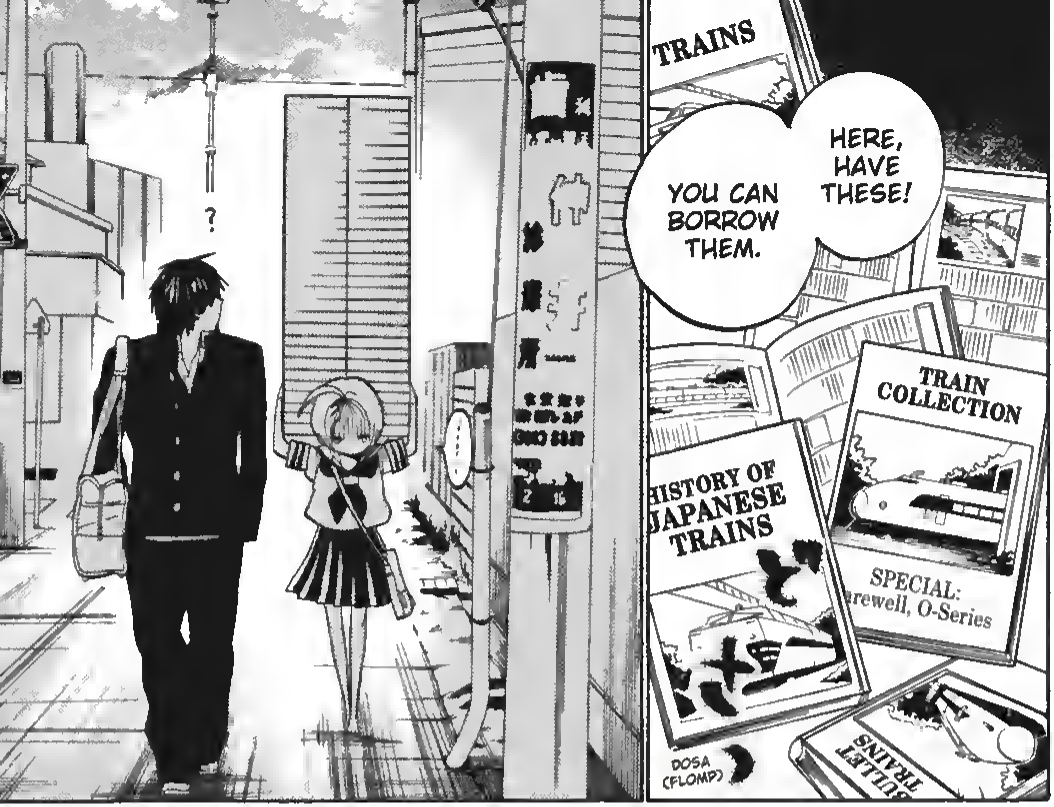
ISN'T THAT RIGHT?

THAT MAKES IT THE GREATEST TRAIN IN THE HISTORY OF JAPANESE LOCOMOTION!

I KNEW YOU WOULD AGREE!

I'LL NEVER FORGET ITS FINAL, MOVING RUN. THAT O-SERIES RAN FOR THIRTY-FIVE YEARS, SINCE THE VERY OPENING OF THE TOUKAIDOU LINE!

PERSONALLY, MY FAVORITE IS THE O-SERIES BULLET TRAIN...THE DREAM EXPRESS THAT WAS RETIRED FROM THE TOUKAIDOU LINE IN 1999!

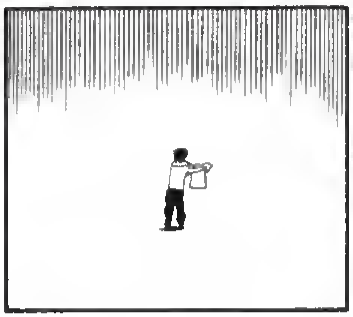

?
TRAINS
HERE, HAVE THESE!
YOU CAN BORROW THEM.
TRAIN COLLECTION
HISTORY OF JAPANESE TRAINS
SPECIAL: Farewell, O-Series
BULLET TRAINS
DOSA (FLOMP)

SECRET NUMBER THREE!!
IT SEEMS I MUST RESORT TO...

KOUSHI-DONO...

PIRA (FLAP)
...DID I? I CAN'T REMEMBER.
THAT'S WEIRD.
I DIDN'T BRING THIS SHIRT TO CHANGE INTO...

HUH?



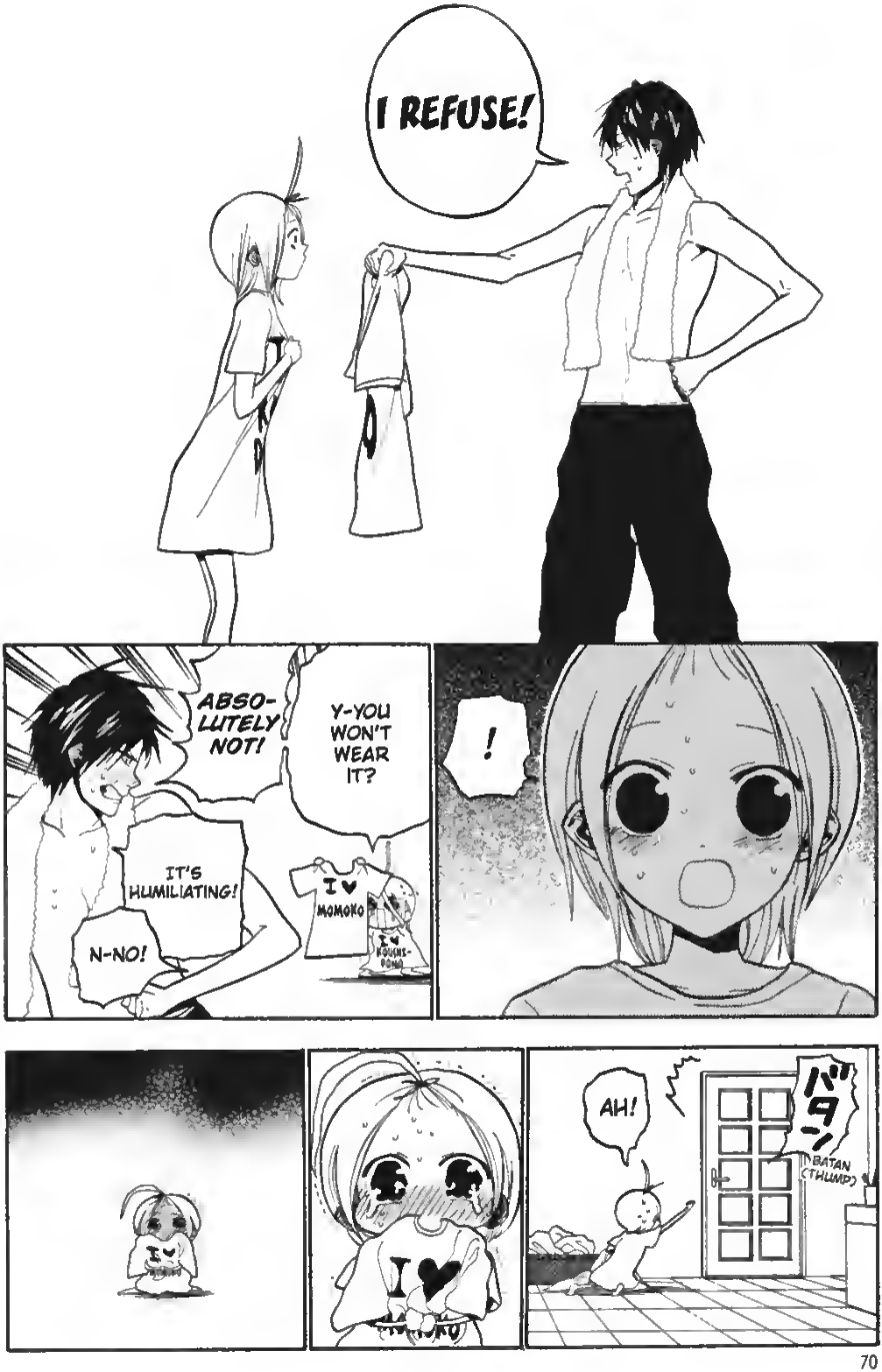
GET OUT HERE!

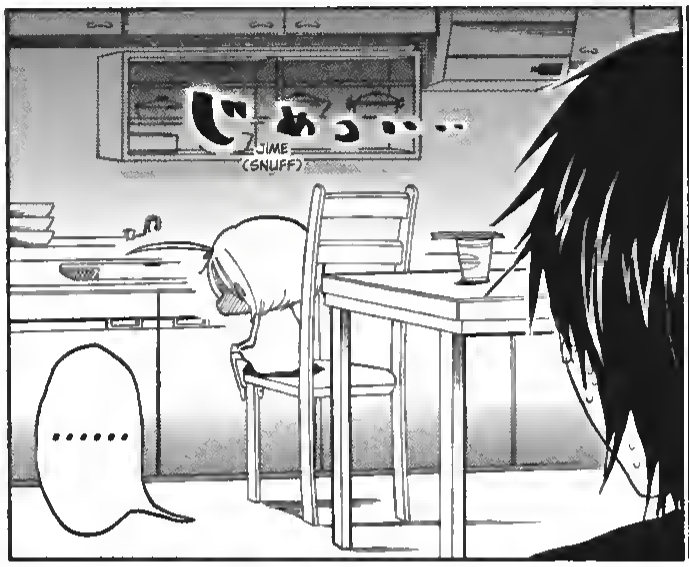
I ♥ MOMOKO

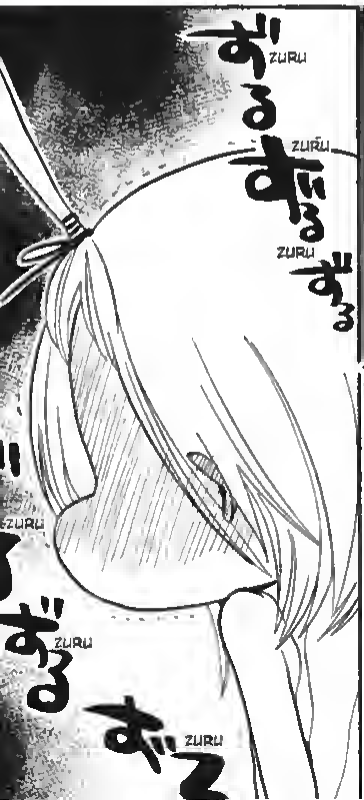
EXCUSE ME...
...CAN YOU EXPLAIN?
PLEASE?
I ♥ MOMOKO
CERTAINLY! YOU SEE...

YEEEES?♡
WHAAAT?
I ♥ KOUSHI-DONO

...I'M "GIVING A SHAPE TO OUR LOVE"!
...???
NUMBER THREE: GIVE A MATERIAL FORM TO YOUR MATRIMONIAL LOVE.
LOVE CAN GROW THIN AND LOSE ITS SUBSTANCE WITH TIME.
ドキ DOKI (BADUM)
ドキ DOKI
ドキ DOKI
KOUSHI-DONO
IF YOU CAN ASSIGN IT A PHYSICAL SHAPE...
...THEN YOU MAY BE ABLE TO REAF-FIRM IT BETWEEN YOUR-SELVES.
I YEARN FOR YOU...
...KOUSHI-DONO!
GYU (SQUEEZE)
ぎゅ…
ドキ DOKI
ドキ DOKI
ドキ DOKI
ドキ DOKI
AND DO YOU FEEL THE SAME IN RETURN ...?
ドキ DOKI
ドキ DOKI
ドキ DOKI
.....
ドキ DOKI


I REFUSE!
!
Y-YOU WON'T WEAR IT?
ABSO-LUTELY NOT!
IT'S HUMILIATING!
N-NO!
I ♥ MOMOKO
I ♥ KOUSHI-KUNO
バタン
BATAN (THUMP)
AH!

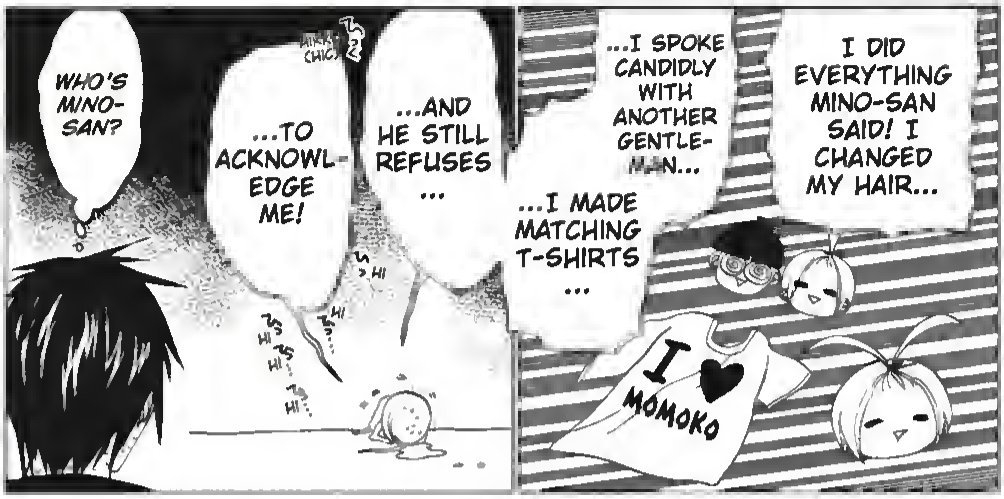




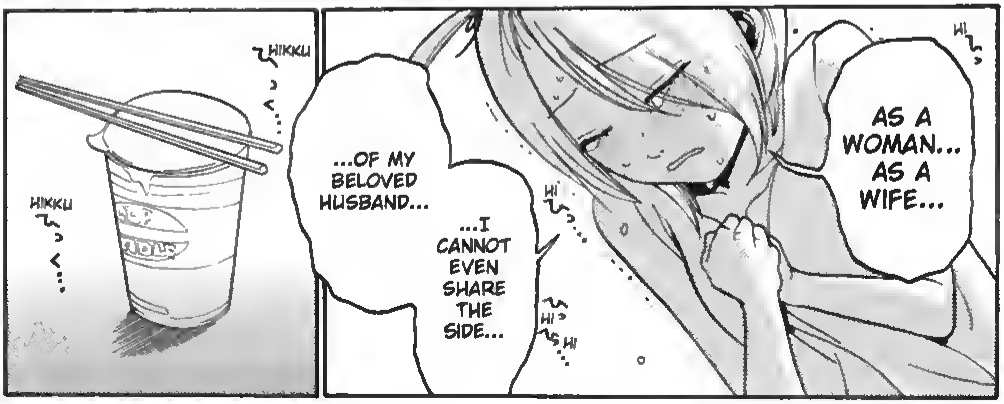
SFX: ZURU (SLURP) ZURU

WAAAA
BIKU (JUMP) ビクッ
WAAAA-AHHHH!
AAAAH
AAH

I AM NOTHING TO KOUSHI-DONOOOO!
WAAA!
HE DOESN'T NEED ME...
.....
HUH??
WAAAAAH! HYAAAA! BOOOO HOO HOO!
AAAAAH!
WAAAH!


WHO'S MINO-SAN?
...TO ACKNOWL-EDGE ME!
...AND HE STILL REFUSES ...
...I SPOKE CANDIDLY WITH ANOTHER GENTLE-MAN...
...I MADE MATCHING T-SHIRTS ...
I DID EVERYTHING MINO-SAN SAID! I CHANGED MY HAIR...
I ♥ MOMOKO

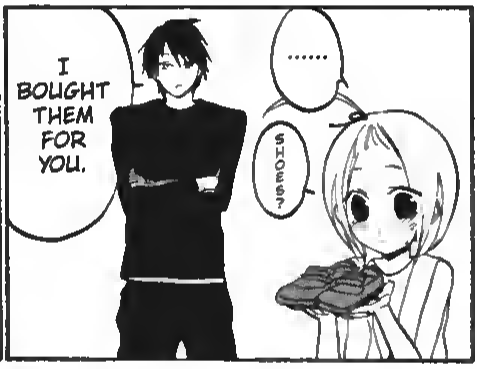
...THAN MY OWN HOMEMADE COOKING...
...HE WOULD RATHER HAVE INSTANT RAMEN...
A-AND WORST OF ALL...


HIKKU
HIKKU
...OF MY BELOVED HUSBAND...
...I CANNOT EVEN SHARE THE SIDE...
AS A WOMAN... AS A WIFE...

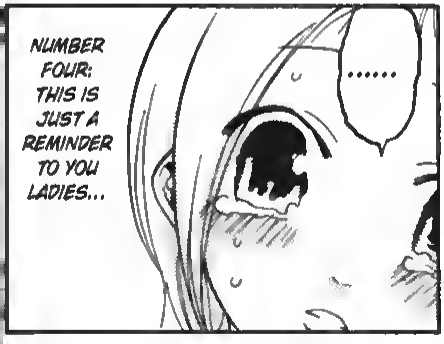
I AM SO LOOOONE-LYYYYY...
PIIIIIIII (FWEEEEEE)
WAAAAAAAAAH!
.....
.....
WAAAAAAAAAH!
WAAAAAAAAAH!
UHH...
WAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAH!
WAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAH!
WHAT'S GOING ON, HERE?
I DIDN'T SAY I LIKED THE INSTANT NOODLES BETTER.
DID I?
COME ON...
STOP CRYING!!
WAAAAAAAAAH!
WAAAAAAAAAH!
WAAAAAAAAAH!
I'VE GOT TO CALM HER DOWN...
UMM ...
HMM ...
AAAAH!
AAAAH!
AAAAH!
WAH! WAH!
OH!
WAAAAAAAAAH!

HERE.

YOU SHOULD AT LEAST WEAR SOMETHING ON YOUR FEET WHEN YOU GO TO SCHOOL...
FOR ME, I MEAN!
ONLY BECAUSE IT'S EMBARRASSING, THAT'S ALL!
.....


I BOUGHT THEM FOR YOU.
.....
SHOES?

...BUT ALWAYS REMEMBER...
YOUR HUSBAND MAY NOT ADMIT IT...
?


NUMBER FOUR: THIS IS JUST A REMINDER TO YOU LADIES...
.....

MEN ARE SHY. YOU HAVE TO UNDERSTAND THIS.

...HE SURELY LOVES YOU VERY MUCH.

JIIIIN (TOUCHED)

.....!!

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT!!?

WAAAAAH!

AND I LOVE YOU TOOOO!

I'M CALLING ABOUT MY HUSBAND...

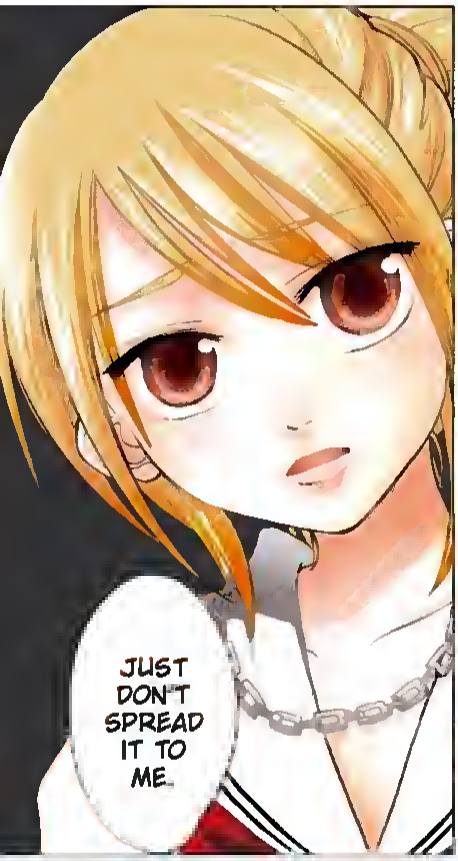
ACK!

THE NEXT DAY

ALL DAY PHONE CALL

CHAPTER 17. BREAKING THE STALEMATE – END

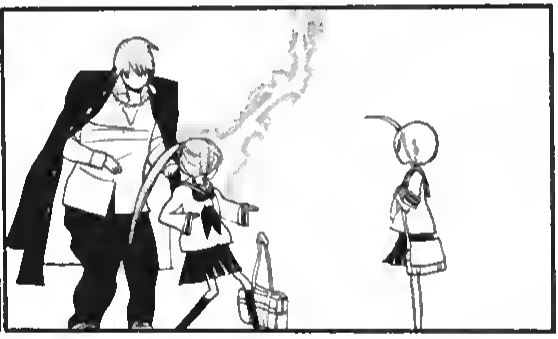
はくしょん
HAKKUSHO! (BWAACHOO)
IN HANZOU'S CASE:

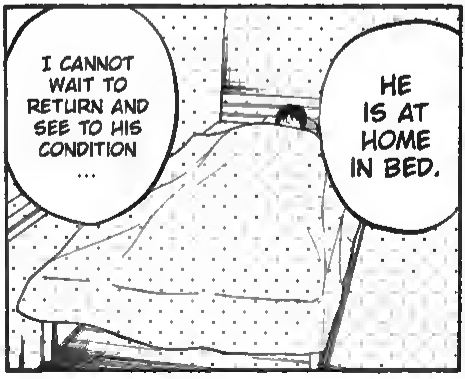


18. IROHA MIYAMOTO'S ROUGH TREATMENT

WHAAAAT!!?

GAAAAAN (DONNNNG)





SFX: PURU (TREMBLE) PURU PURU PURU

OH NO! MY FEVER... GETTING WORSE...

I'LL PEEL AN APPLE, IF IT HELPS!

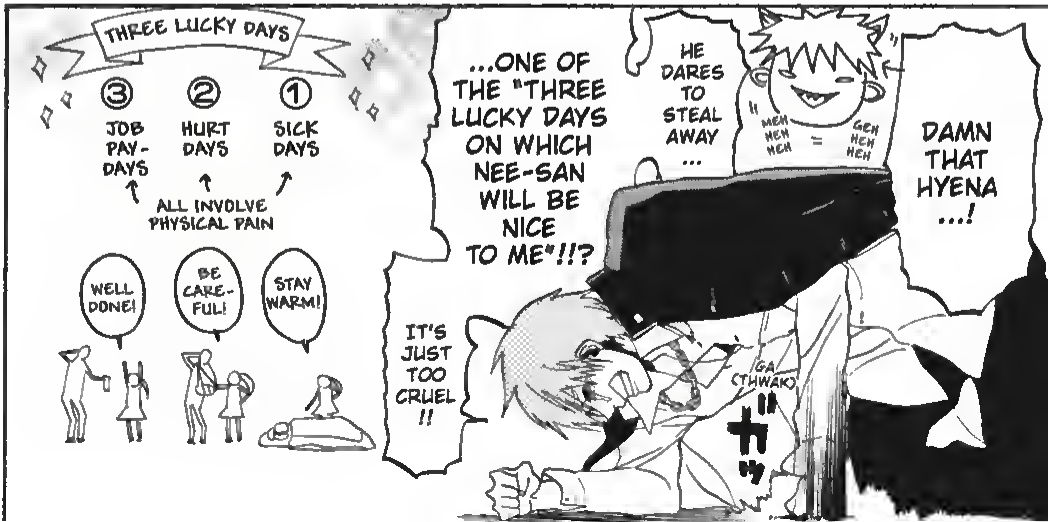
I'LL DO ANY-THING ...

HACK-ING COUGH! KOFF GHOFF GER-HOFF !!

KETCHUP

WHAT!?

I-I WANT TO HELP!



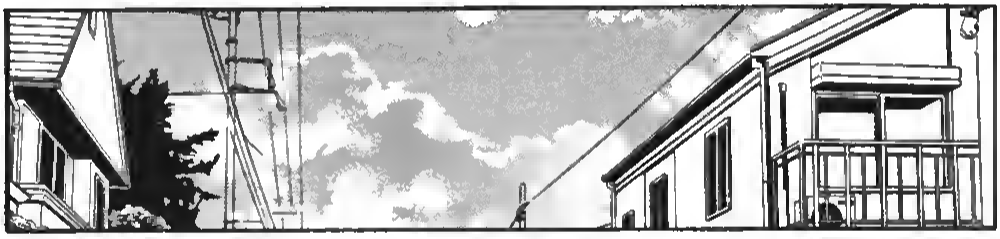
WELL, I DON'T THINK SO!!

HEH...

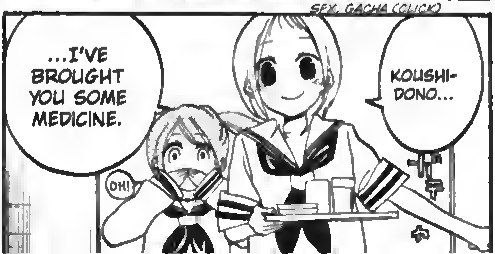
HEH...

HEH...

HEH...

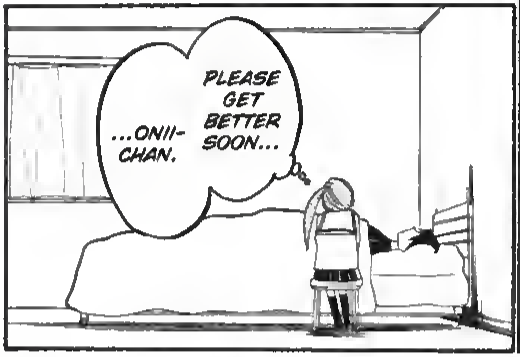


SFX: GACHA (CLICK)

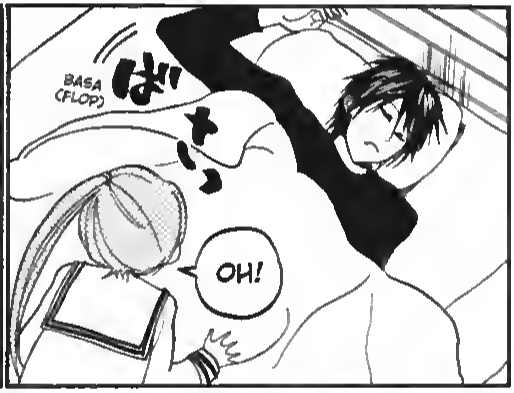


.....
PATAN (THUMP)

SHH!
I'LL GO AND MAKE DINNER...
LEAVE HIM TO ME!


PLEASE GET BETTER SOON...
...ONII-CHAN.

NO, ONII-CHAN!
YOU HAVE TO STAY WARM!
PASA (FLAP)


BASA (FLOP)
OH!

YOU NEED TO GET BETTER!

BASA
NO!

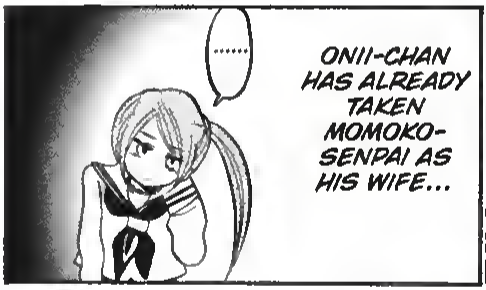
ドキッ DOKI (BADUM)
ORO (PANIC)
オロ
ORO
オロ
オロ
ORO
ORO
オロ
オロ
ORO
……
……
……
CHI…
CHIRA (P-PEEK)
じ
JIIII (STARE)
ドキ DOKI
じ
JIIII
DOKI ドキ
DOKI ドキ
ドキ DOKI
ドキ DOKI
ドキ DOKI

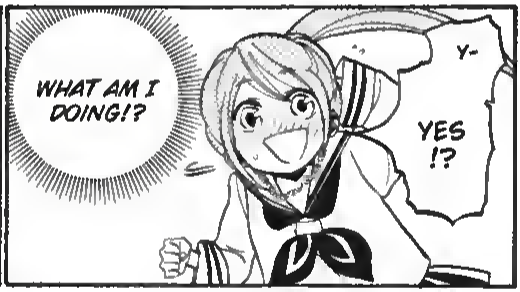
PA (FWAP)

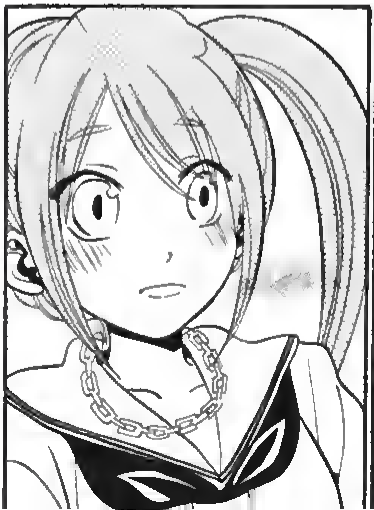
!!

IROHA-DONOOOO!

GACHA (CLACK)

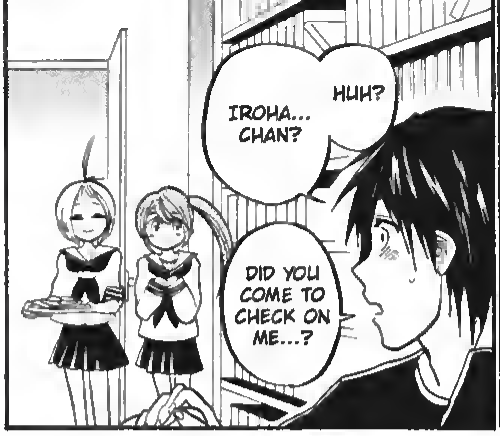


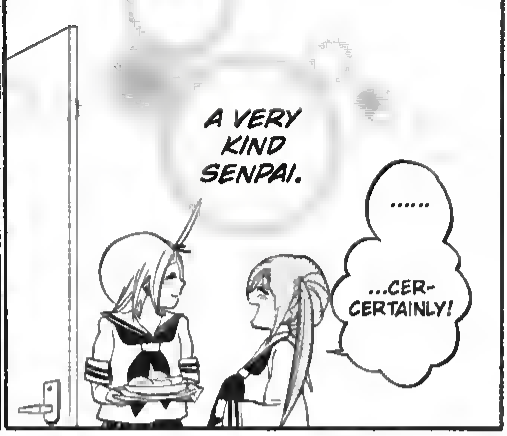




NIKO (GRIN)

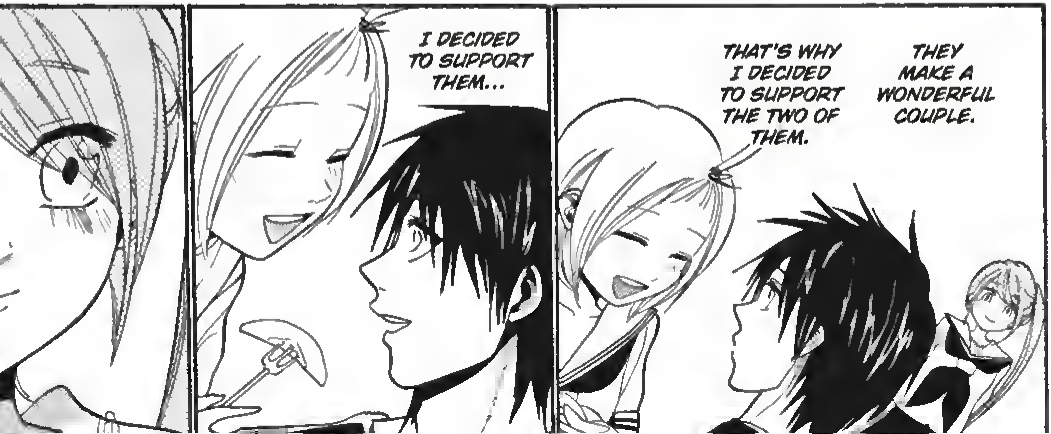
WOULD YOU DO US THE PLEASURE OF EATING DINNER WITH US?

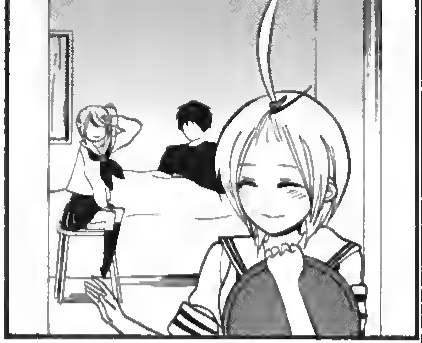

IROHA... CHAN?
HUH?
DID YOU COME TO CHECK ON ME...?

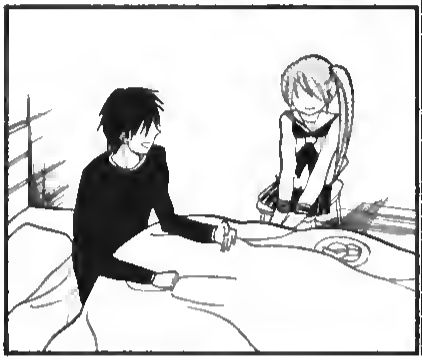

A VERY KIND SENPAI.
.....
...CER-CERTAINLY!

.....
HEH HEH!
AND A VERY KIND KOUSHI-ONII-CHAN.

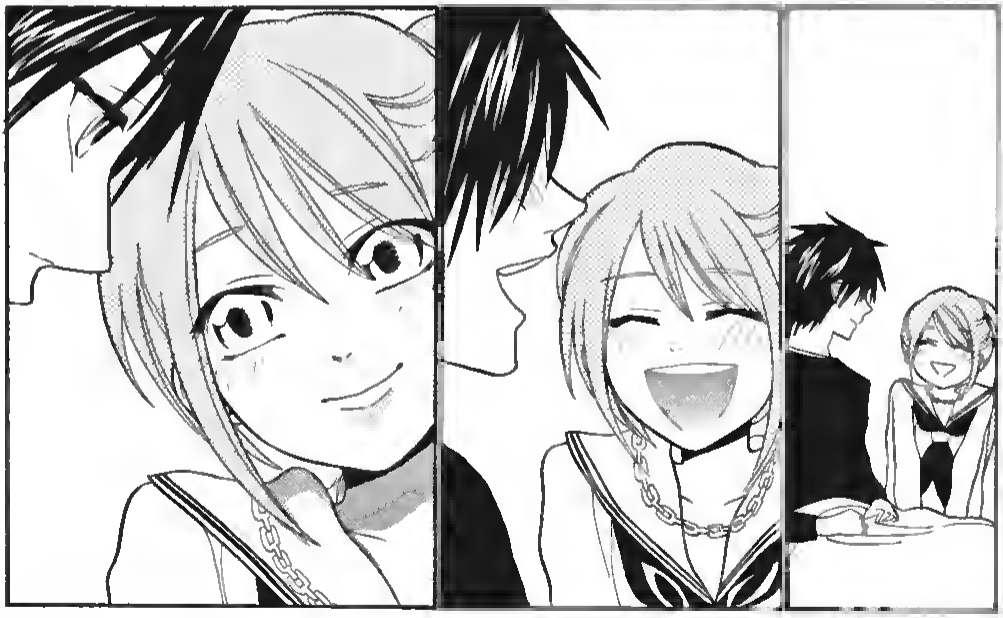
...THANKS.


I DECIDED TO SUPPORT THEM...
THAT'S WHY I DECIDED TO SUPPORT THE TWO OF THEM.
THEY MAKE A WONDERFUL COUPLE.





...AND YET...



IROHA-CHAN?
WHAT SHOULD I DO?

...ONII-CHAN.

I STILL LOVE YOU...

I DON'T WANT TO GO HOME YET...

.....

.....

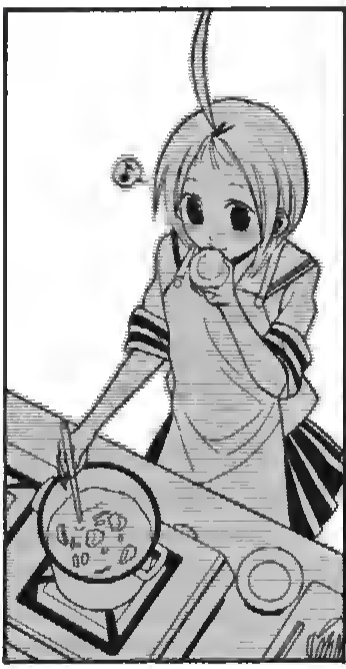
...UH, I MEAN...

IT'S LATE AND ALL.

.....

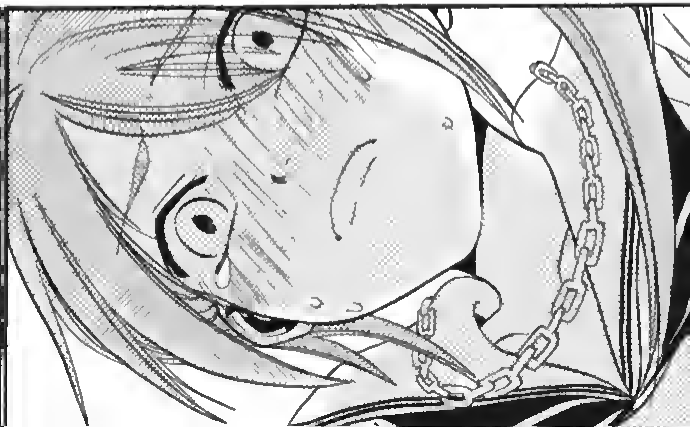
WHY DON'T YOU GET GOING?

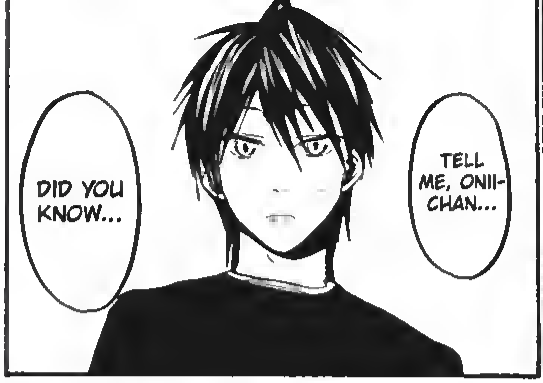
...DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
AS FAR AS HELP GOES...
...I'M STAYING HERE...
UNTIL YOU GET BETTER ...
I'M NOT LEAVING.



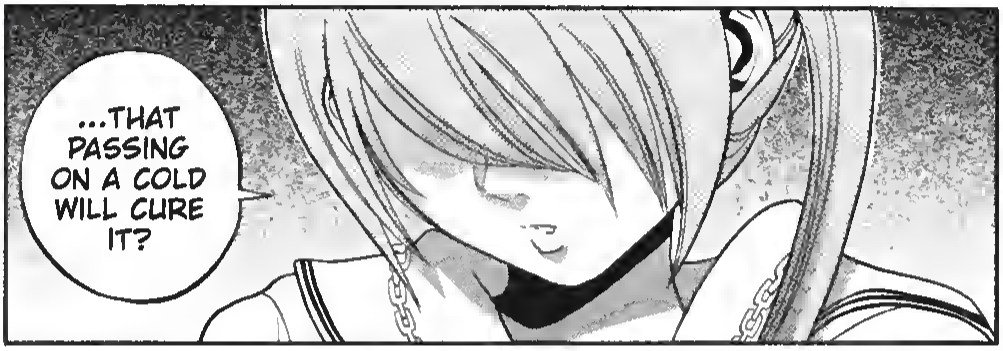
I'VE GOT *HER*, AFTER ALL.

...TO HELP YOU RECOVER ...
BUT...
BUT *I* WANT...




DID YOU KNOW...
TELL ME, ONII-CHAN...

.....?


...THAT PASSING ON A COLD WILL CURE IT?

YOU'LL CATCH IT!
I DON'T CARE.
YOU SHOULD!
.....

SFX: GOHO (KOFF) GOHO
ゴホゴホ
OH, PLEASE.
THAT'S SUPER-STITION ...
HEY!
STAY BACK!

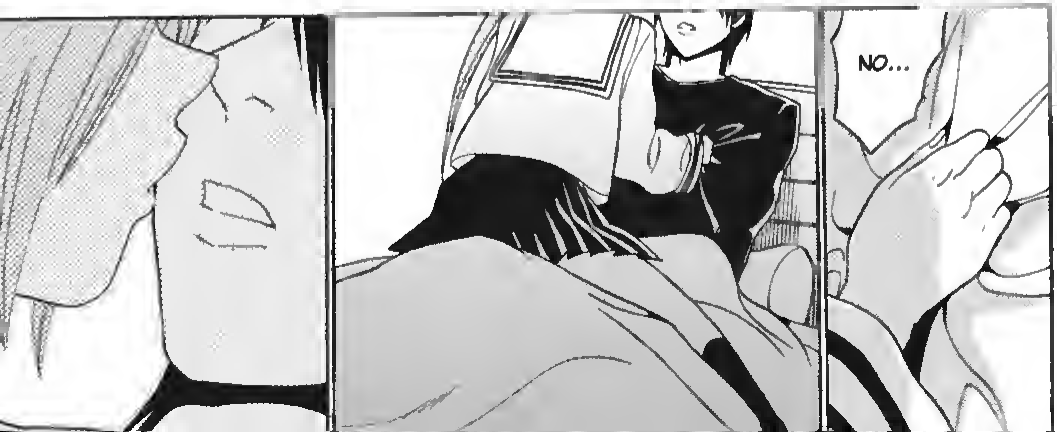
.....

YOU REALLY WILL GET SICK!

MAKE ME SICK.

!

HUH ...!?


NO...

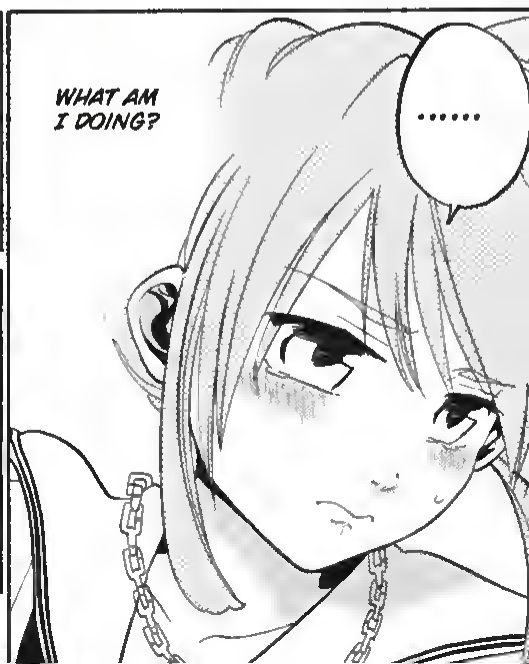
はっ
HA (GASP)

GACHAAAN (CRAAASH)

HA
HA
HA
HA
IT'S AN OLD WIVES' TALE...
YOU'RE RIGHT!
J-JUST KIDDING!
PA (FWIP)

.....

.....!
ギリ (GRIT)


WHAT AM I DOING?
.....

I'M... ALL... RIGHT ...

GOHO GOHO ゴーホ

JUST FINE...

I'M FINE.

GOHO ゴホ

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

ONII-CHAN?

OH!

GOHO (KOFF) ゴホ

GOHO ゴホゴホ

GOHO GOHO ゴホゴホ

SFX: BURU (TREMBLE) BURU

...THAT THIS IS NOT THE REAL KOUSHI INUZUKA.

THE MORE CLEVER AND PERCEPTIVE OF YOU WILL PERHAPS HAVE NOTICED ...

IT IS, IN FACT...

I'M SO JEALOUS...

CURSE YOU, KOUSHI INUZUKA!

DAMMIT ...!!

...CONCEALING THE FACE OF HANZOU!!!

...A CLEVER USE OF THE INDARA JAEI GENMA-RYUU SECRET TECHNIQUE, ART OF A THOUSAND DISGUISES...

KOUSHI

HANZOU

NEE-SAAAN! WHY DO YOU ONLY SHOW MERCY AND SOFTNESS TO HIM!?

RR

RR

HANZOU

GRR

RR

HELLP

KOUSHI

MEEE!!

HA! WHO CARES ABOUT HIM?

OH, HANZOU?

...THAN THAT OTHER FELLOW?

MM! NH!

...YOU ACT SO DIFFERENTLY TOWARD ME...

WHY IS IT THAT ...

NEE-SA—

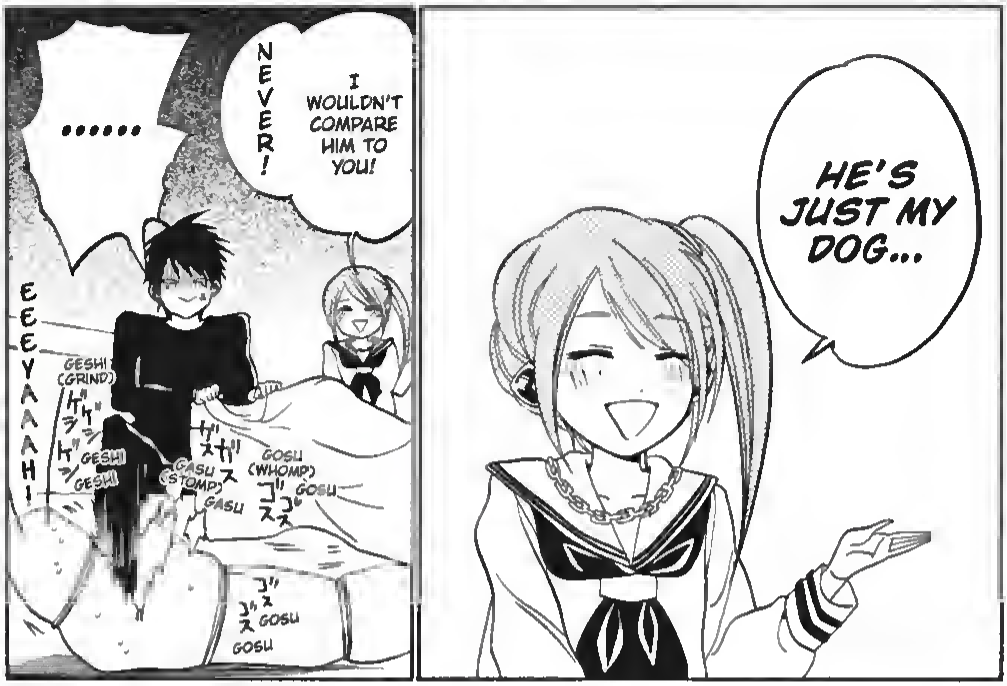
...I MEAN...

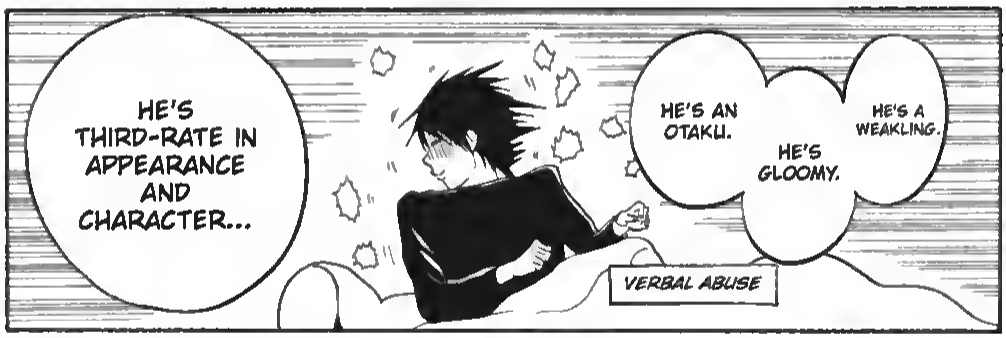
...IROHA-CHAN...

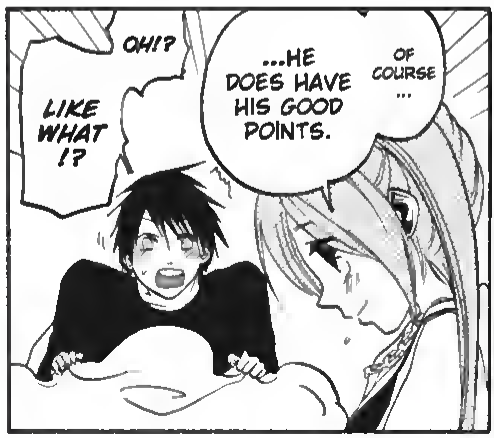
.....

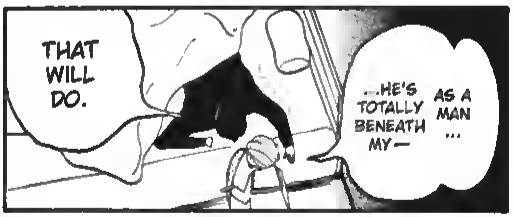
.....

.....







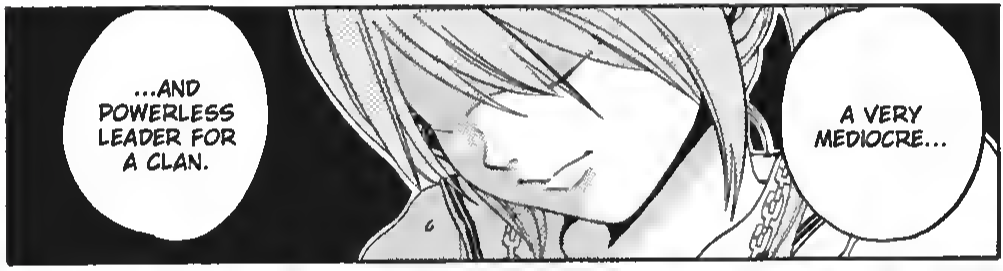


SFX: GUSU (SNIFF)

.....

...IS A VERY GENTLE AND QUIET MAN...
...MY FATHER, THAT IS...
THE LEADER OF THE MIYAMOTO CLAN...

HE'S THE ONLY ONE...
...WHO'S STUCK WITH ME.


...AND POWERLESS LEADER FOR A CLAN.
A VERY MEDIOCRE...

... STAYED ...
... THEY HAVEN'T ...
BUT EVEN STILL ...
...WITH ME...

I MUST ACT...
I MUST BE A FIERCE AND STRICT LEADER INSTEAD!

OUR MEMBERS HAVE LEFT, ONE AFTER ANOTHER...
THIS MUST NOT STAND!

BUT HE'S STUCK AROUND FOR ME.

NEE-SAN...!!

.....
.....!!

IT'S THAT SIDE OF YOU...

...YOU ALWAYS GET BACK UP AND MOVE FORWARD ...

EVEN WHEN YOU FAIL ..

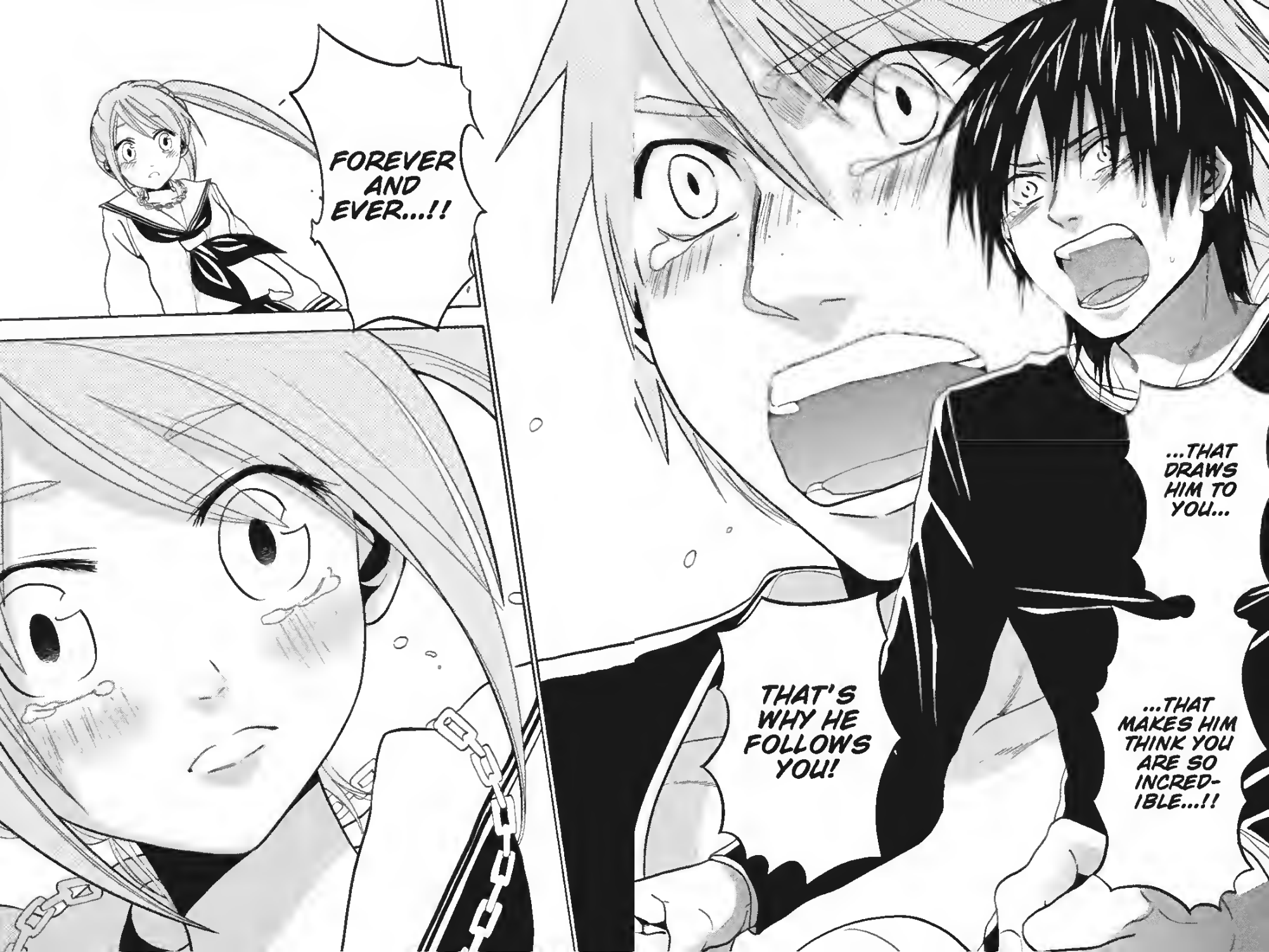
NEVER!!

...WHEN HE THINKS I JUST CAN'T DO ANYTHING RI—

EVEN THOUGH I'M SURE THERE ARE DAYS ...

.....
.....

THAT'S NOT TRUE AT ALL!!


FOREVER AND EVER...!!
...THAT DRAWS HIM TO YOU...
THAT'S WHY HE FOLLOWS YOU!
...THAT MAKES HIM THINK YOU ARE SO INCRED-IBLE...!!

I NEVER REALIZED YOU THOUGHT ABOUT ME THAT WAY...!!

HUH?

NN...

NGH. NGH

NNH

NO, THANK YOU!!

THANK YOU...

...ONII-CH—

ZASSHU (ZWOP)

Y-

YOU THINK SO?

THAT MAKES ME FEEL A BIT BETTER.

GUSU (SNIFF)

UM, ONII...?

GUSU

I'LL GET STRON-GER!

I'LL TRAIN HARDER!

GUSU

I'LL MAKE UP FOR THE OTHERS !!

...NO, HUNDREDS !!

THE DOZENS ...

GUSU

GUSU

BERI (PEEEL)

GOSHI

BIRI

NN NGH

I WILL MAKE UP...

...FOR ALL THE MEN WHO LEFT...

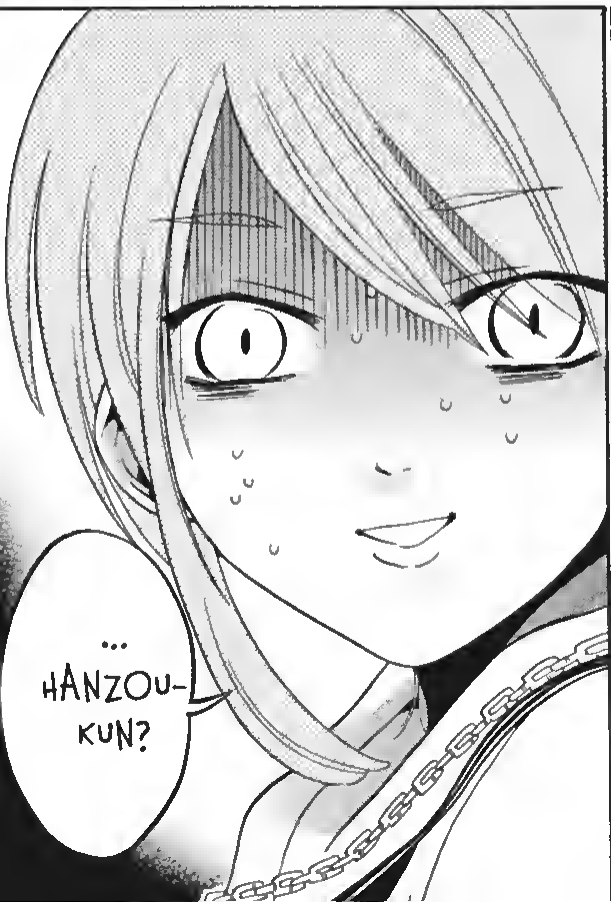
GOSHI

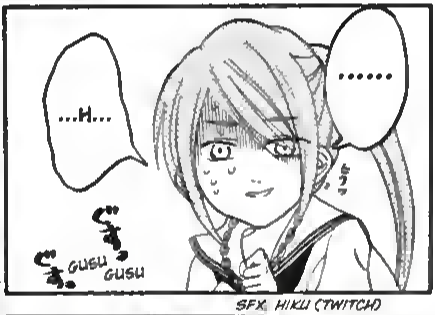
GOSHI

GOSHI

GOSHI

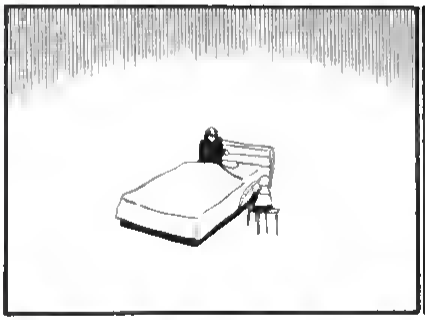
GOSHI (RUB)





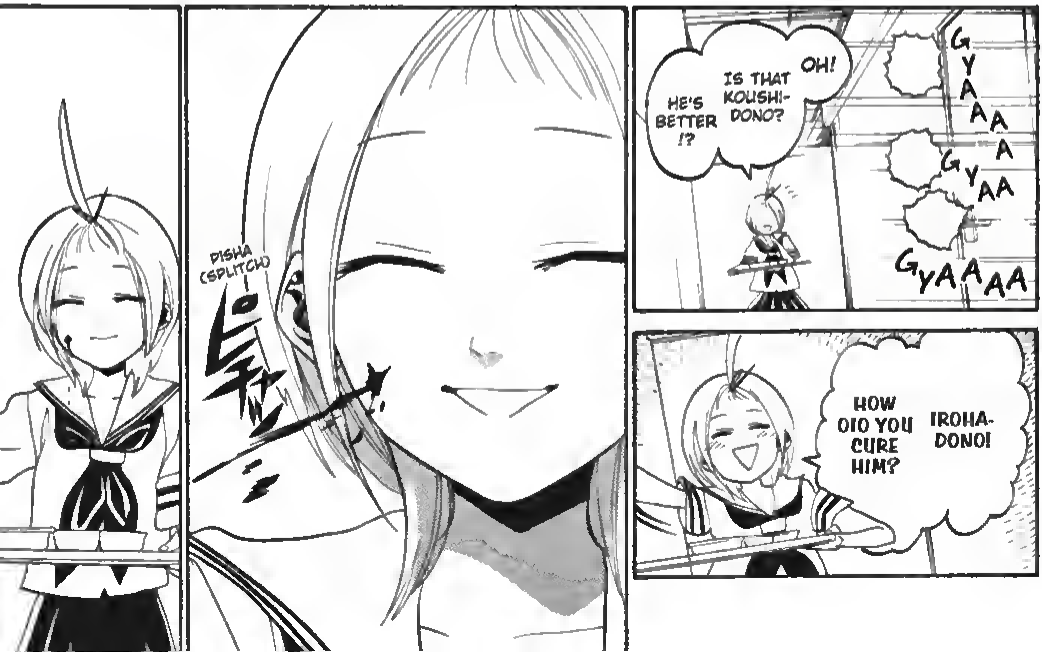
SFX. HIKU (TWITCH)

YES, NEE-SAN?



YOU SAW EVERY-THING?

!!



CHAPTER 18. IROHA MIYAMOTO'S ROUGH TREATMENT – END

GOGOGOGOGOGO (RRRUMBLE)
DON (BOOM)
DON
MASTER OF HAIRA ICHIDEN MUSOU-RYUU
SENDAYUU KUZURYUU
MASTER OF BASARA FUDOU SHINGAN-RYUU
UNKEN INUZUKA
LEADERS OF THE TWELVE CLANS...
...SURELY YOU ARE ALL AWARE...
SHIIIN (SILENCE)
...OF THE REASONS FOR WHICH I HAVE CALLED YOU HERE.

GIROO (GLARE)
I WILL CHOOSE TO IGNORE THE ATTEMPTS YOU HAVE MADE ON MY SON'S LIFE...
...AS LONG AS YOU COME TOGETHER EAST AND WEST!!
HEAR THAT ...?
WE'RE... TELLING YOU TO GET ALONG FROM NOW ON...
CHIRA (PEEK)
SHIIIIN (SILENCE)
.....
BIKU (TWITCH)
BIKU
GOGOGOGOGO (RRRUMBLE)
ANY COM-PLAINTS? LET'S HEAR 'EM...!!

ZOOOOO (CHILLLLL)

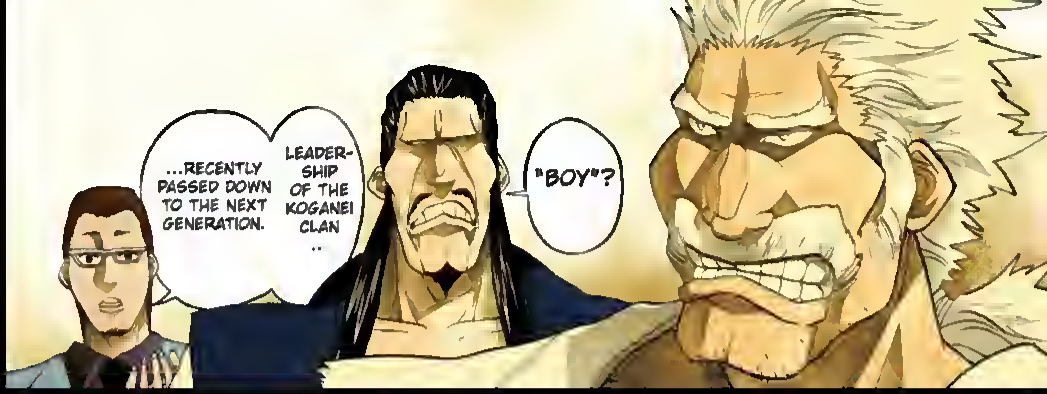
...AND JOIN HANDS IN PEACE!
LET US BE GLAD FOR OUR LEADERS' MAGNANIMITY...

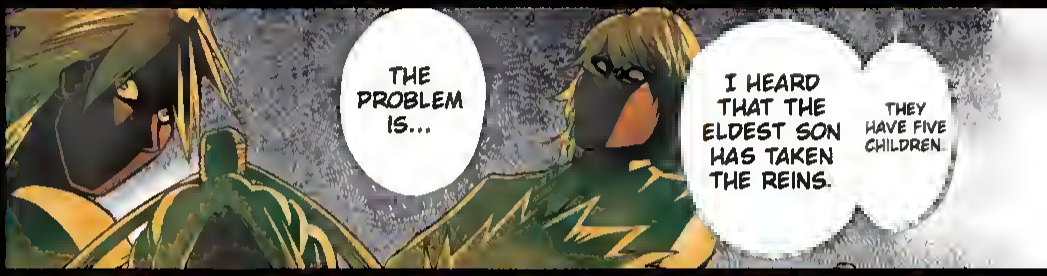
SHIIIN
...
...

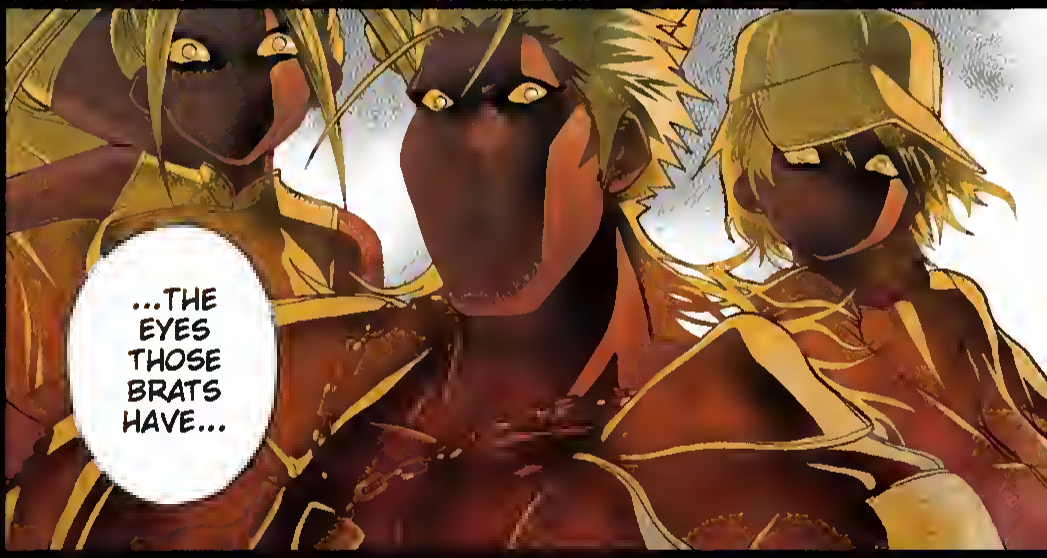
NOW, NOW, FRIENDS!
N-
SU (STAND)

TSK! THE BOY... HE DIDN'T SHOW...
I DON'T SEE THE KOGANEI AMONG US.
BUT WAIT. KUZU-RYUU ...

THAT'S IT IN A NUTSHELL!
YEP!
COR-RECT?
THE WAR IS OVER.
BOTH SIDES ARE ALLIED NOW.


...RECENTLY PASSED DOWN TO THE NEXT GENERATION.
LEADERSHIP OF THE KOGANEI CLAN ..
"BOY"?


THE PROBLEM IS...
I HEARD THAT THE ELDEST SON HAS TAKEN THE REINS.
THEY HAVE FIVE CHILDREN.


...THE EYES THOSE BRATS HAVE...

...FULL OF MALICE ...!!
DANGEROUS, FERAL EYES...

19. MOTHER IS THE BOND

ZAAAAA (FSHHHH)
PETTAN (PLOCKA)
PETTAN
SORRY. GUESS I GOT THE WRONG SIZE.
WHAT SIZE DO YOU USUALLY WEAR?
THESE ARE FINE!
I DON'T MIND AT ALL!
PETTAN
PETTAN
NYAAAAA (MEOWWW)
SIGN. INUZUKA
ZAAAAA
PLEASE GIVE ME A HOME BYAKKO

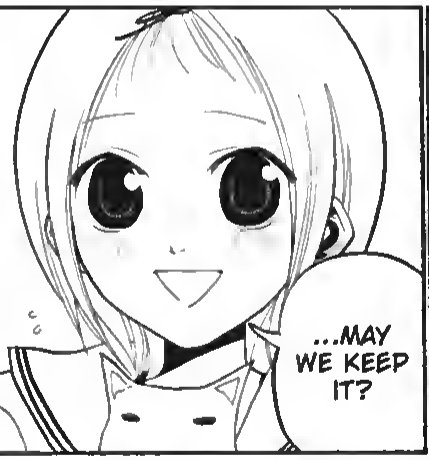
K-KOUSHI-DONO...

KOUSHI-DONO...!!

NYAAA

NYAAA

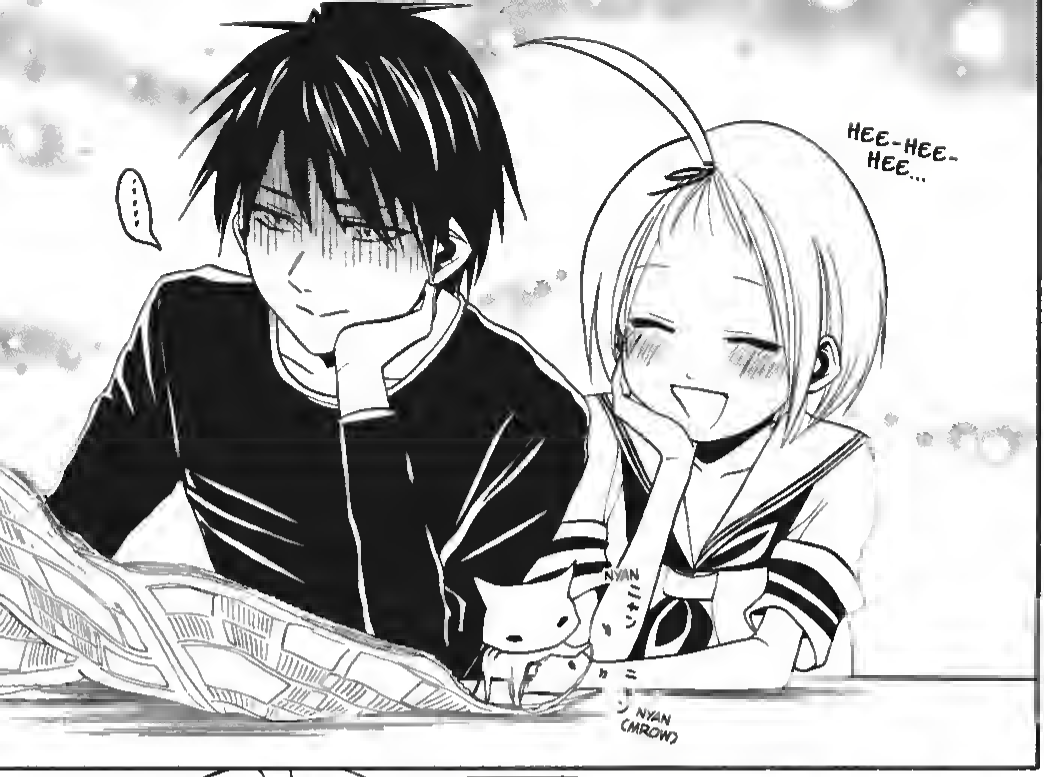
PLEASE GIVE ME A HOME
BYAKKO



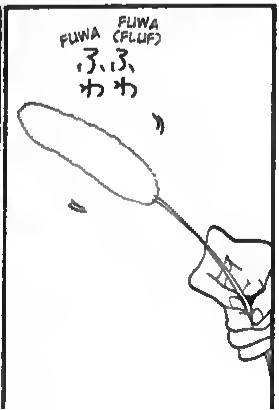
SFX: NYAAA (MEOWW)

LET'S KEEP IT!

LET'S ABSO-LUTELY NOT!!!

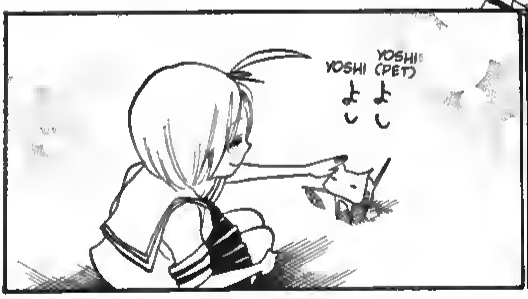


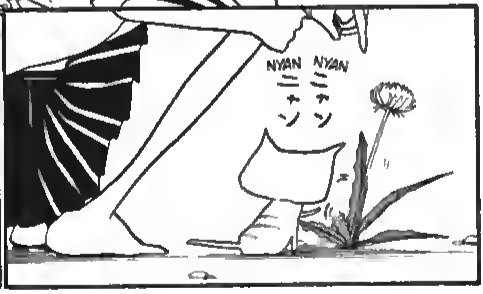
WE HAVE TAKEN IN A CAT, BYAKKO.

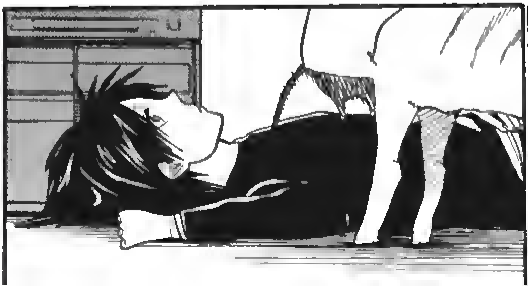


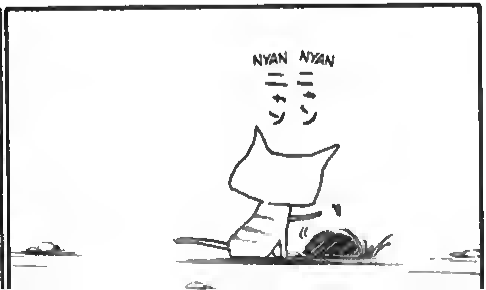
GYAAAAAAAA!
NYAN (MEOW)

LET'S GO PLAY OUTSIDE INSTEAD.
THAT'S NAUGHTY, BYAKKO.

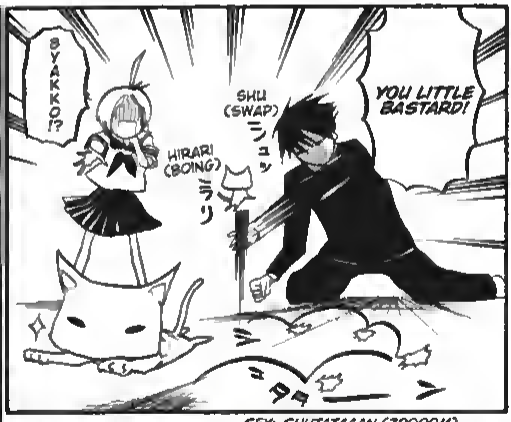

YOSHI
YOSHI (PET)
よし
よし


NYAN NYAN
ニャン
ニャン

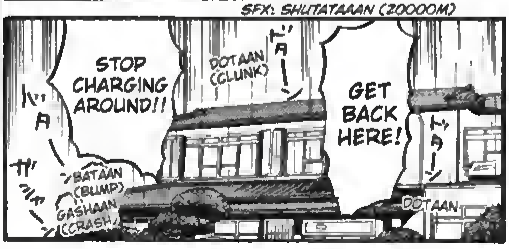



NYAN NYAN
ニャン
ニャン

GYAAAAAAAAA!



SFX: SHUTATAAAN (20000M)



SFX. IRA (PISSED) IRA IRA IRA

I CAN'T LET IT GET ME SO UPSET.

THIS IS NO GOOD ...

NOT EVEN READING

DAMMIT... IT'S JUST A CAT...

NYAAA (MEOW)

...I'M GOING TO KICK IT RIGHT—

I WILL TAKE CARE OF IT! I PROMISE YOU!!

IF YOU CAN'T TAKE CARE OF THE CAT...

GOGOGOGOGO (RRRUMBLE)

...AND HERE IT IS!

GARAA (SHHLINK)

...THAT CAN CALM MY SPIRIT AND RETURN ME TO NORMAL ...!!

THERE'S ONLY ONE THING...

どーん

DOOON (TA-DAA)

小田原城

小田原城

小田原城

MODEL- ODAWARA CASTLE

BUILD-IT-YOURSELF MODEL CASTLE

CASTLES ARE GOOD.

THE PERFECT CALCULATION

THE SUBLIME CURVE AND STRUCTURE.

KOTSU

KOTSU (TOK)

I CAN FEEL MY HEART BEING CLEANSED OF WORRY.

YES

TRULY IMMORTAL!

NOT EVEN THE GREAT GENERALS TAKEDA AND UESUGI COULD TAKE IT DOWN!

THE SUPREME FORTRESS ...

ODAWARA CASTLE.

IMPECCABLY SITUATED TO BE IMPERVIOUS TO ATTACK.

日本の名城シリーズ
ODAWARA CASTLE
AJTHETIC SCALE 1 350
小田原城

GIRAAAN (GLINGG)
ギラーン

...

THE MASTER-PIECE OF ALL CASTLES!

...BE COMPLETE ...!!

...WILL AT LAST...

...BUT FINALLY, MY EIGHT-MONTH PROJECT ...

I'VE BEEN TOO BUSY TO GIVE IT ANY TIME RECENTLY ...

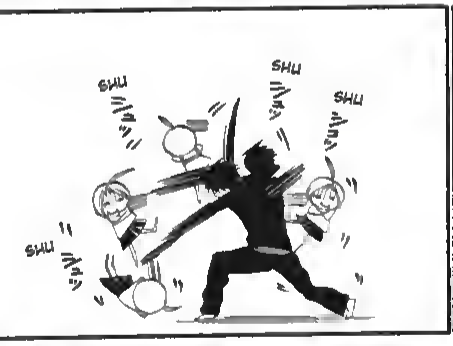
TOP FLOOR PART

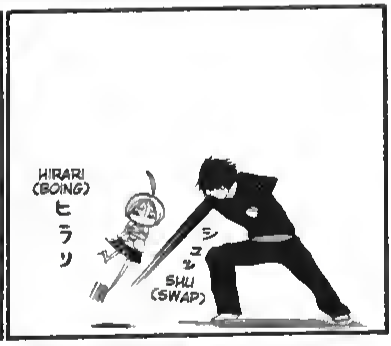
BAKYA (BRAKK)

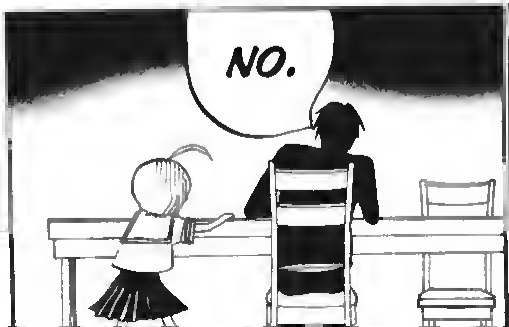
POKYA (THWUK)

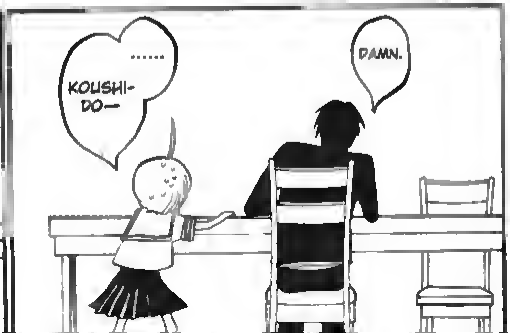
SFX: GARA (CRUMBLE) GARA

GARA (CRUMBLE)
ガラ
GARA
ガラ
ガラ
GARA
GARA
ガラ
GARA
ガラ
GARA
ガラ
GARA
ガラ
GARA
ガラ
CURSE YOUUUUUUU...
...FIENNND!

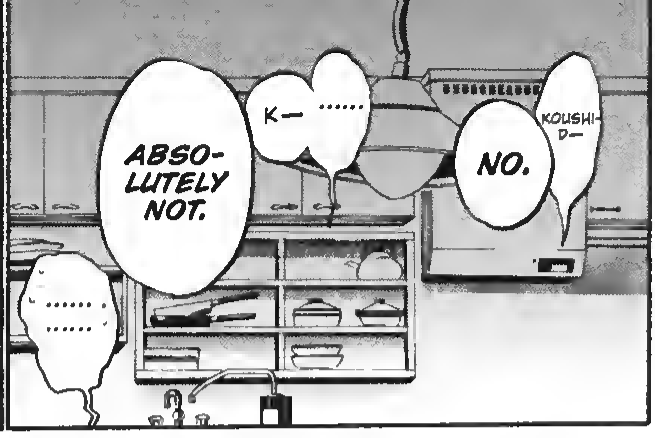

SHU
SHU
SHU
SHU


HIRARI
(BOING)
ヒラリ
シュ
SHU
(SWAP)

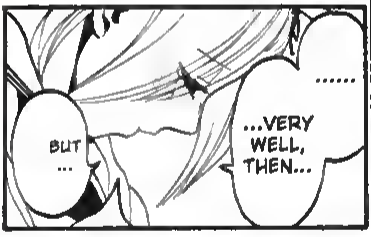

NO.


KOUSHI-
DO—
.....
DAMN.

.....
BUT... BUT...

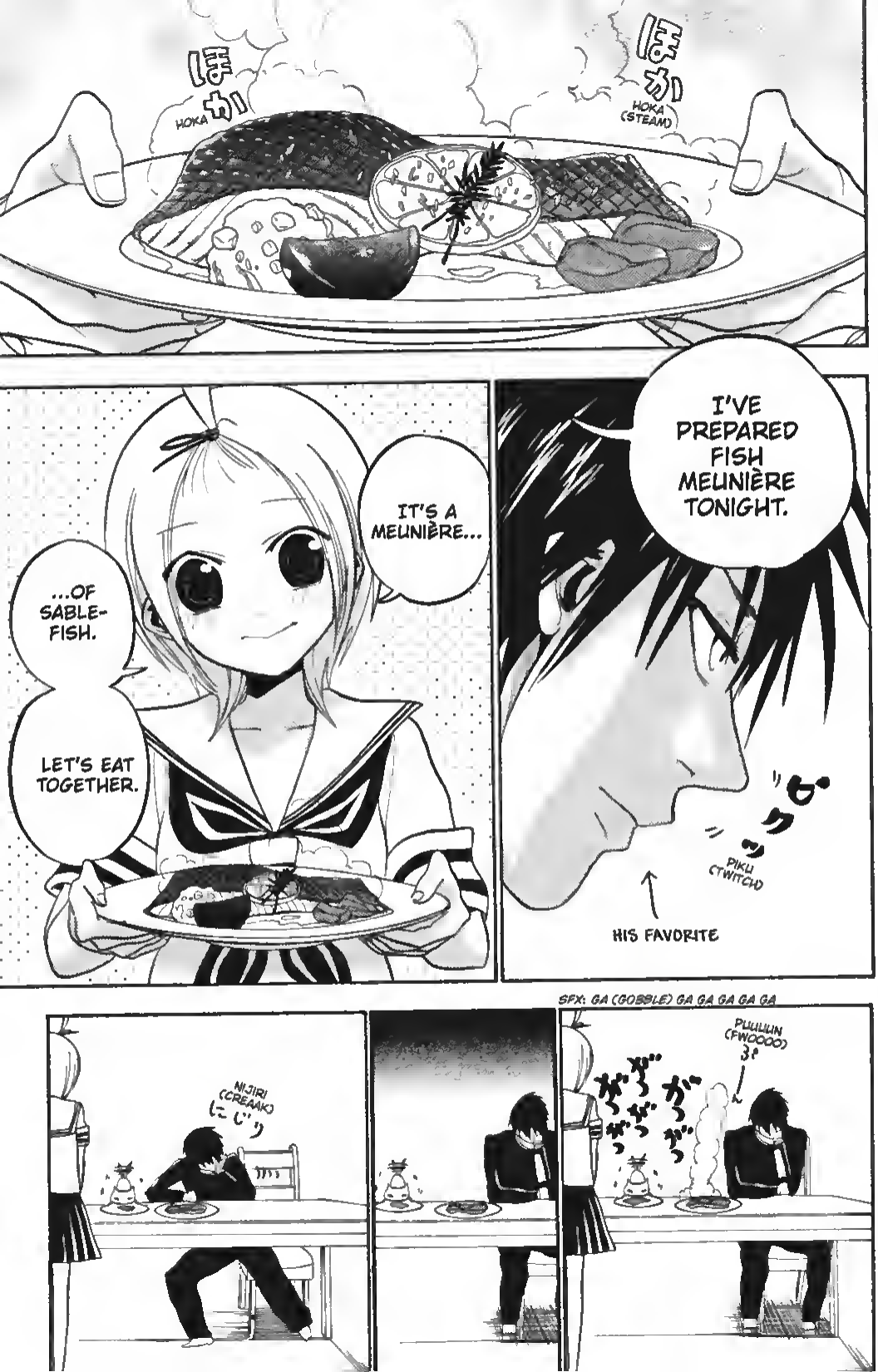

K— .....
KOUSHI-D—
ABSO-LUTELY NOT.
NO.
.....

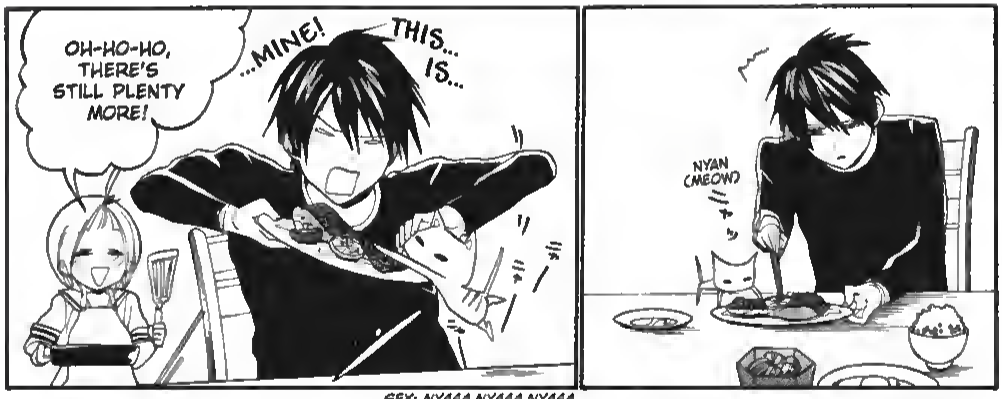
.....
GET RID OF IT!
I SAID NO!


BUT ...
...VERY WELL, THEN...
.....

THE LARGER A FAMILY IS...
...THE MORE FUN IT IS...

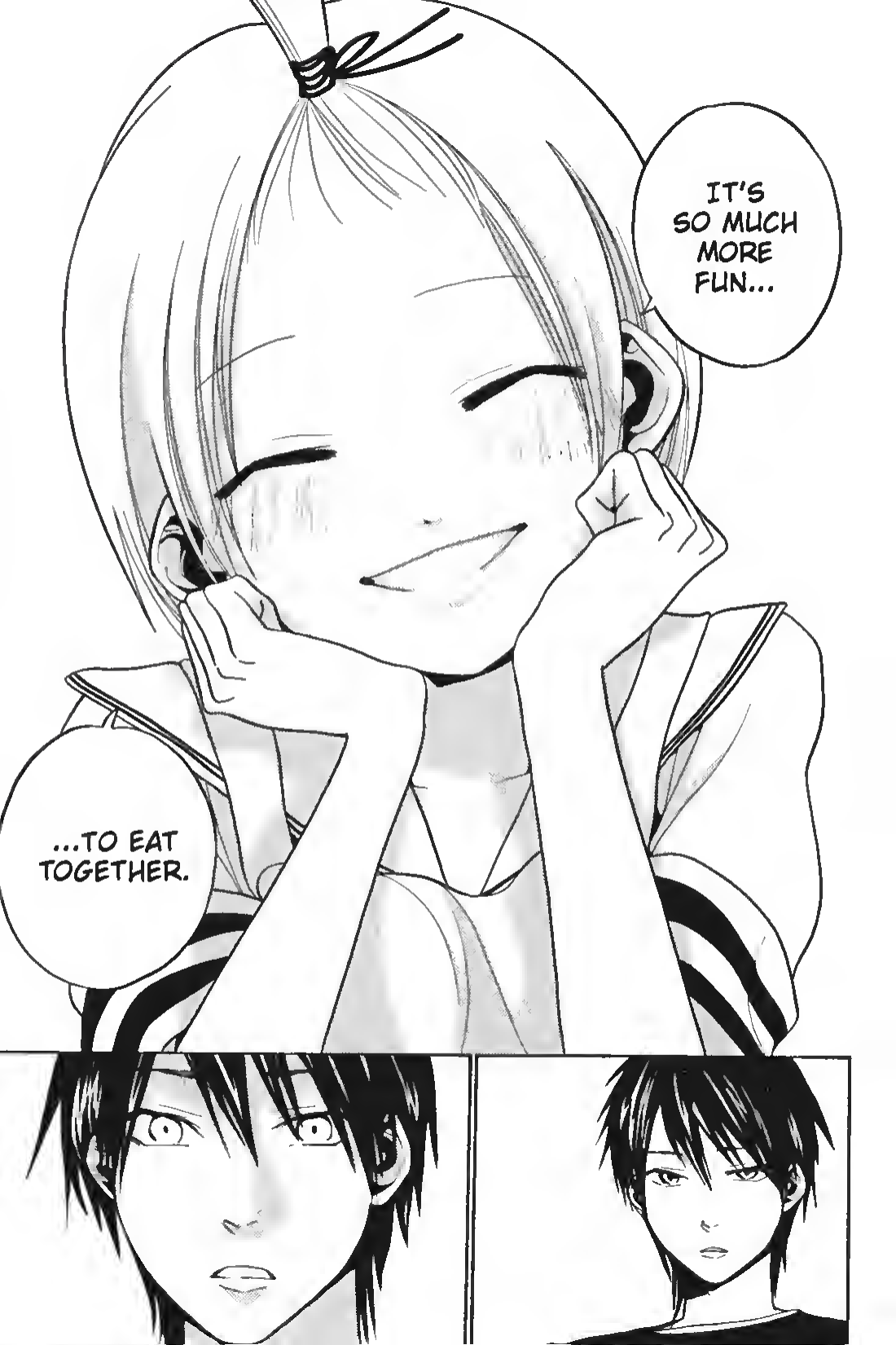
THE THREE OF US...AS A FAMILY?
...ONE LAST TIME...?
BUT WOULD YOU ALLOW US...
...TO EAT DINNER TOGETHER ...


ほか
HOKA (STEAM)
ほか
HOKA
I'VE PREPARED FISH MEUNIÈRE TONIGHT.
ピクッ
PIKU (TWITCH)
HIS FAVORITE
IT'S A MEUNIÈRE...
...OF SABLE-FISH.
LET'S EAT TOGETHER.
SFX: GA (GOBBLE) GA GA GA GA GA
PUUUUN (FWOOOO)
NIJIRI (CREAAK)
にじり



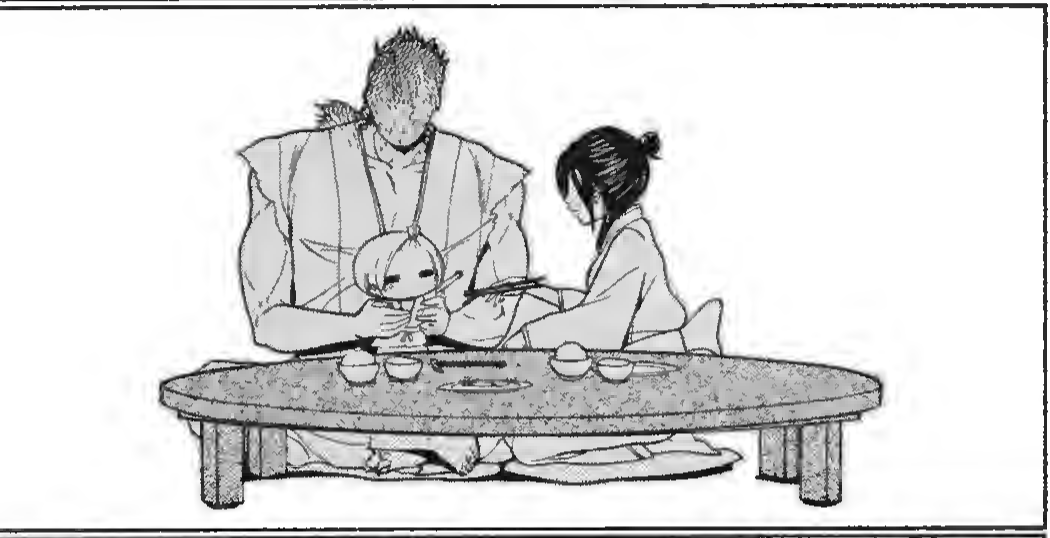
SFX: NYAAA NYAAA NYAAA

SFX: NIKO (GRIN) NIKO


IT'S SO MUCH MORE FUN...
...TO EAT TOGETHER.

IT'S MUCH MORE FUN TO EAT TOGETHER.

FOR YEARS ...
...I HAVE LIVED ALONE WITH MY FATHER. THIS TAKES ME BACK...
...TO EVEN BEFORE THEN.



THERE'S STILL MORE!

THE LARGER A FAMILY IS, THE MORE FUN IT IS...

SO THAT'S WHAT SHE MEANT.

AND SO, BYAKKO'S INDUCTION TO THE HOME WAS MADE OFFICIAL.

Y-YOU TRULY MEAN IT!?

I WILL, KOUSHI-DONO!

JUST TAKE CARE OF IT.

SFX: MOGU (MMF) MOGU MOGU MOGU

I'LL LET HER OFF BECAUSE OF THE FISH.

ZAAAAA (FSHHHH)

THE NEXT DAY

NYAAA (MEOWWW)

SIGN: INUZUKA

DOOOON (BOOM)

PLEASE GIVE ME A HOME

BUT I DON'T MIND!

I'M TELLING YOU, THOSE ARE WAY TOO BIG.

PETTAN

PETTAN (PLOCKA)

NYAAA

NYAAA

NYAAA

PLEASE GIVE ME A HOME

CAN WE...KEEP THAT ONE TOO?

...CAT.

ANOTHER ABANDONED ...

I KNOW ...

KOUSHI-DONO...

PLEASE
E A HOME
パタッ
PATA (THUMP)
プーン
PUUUN (BZZZ)
SORRY TO BOTHER YOU!
THAT WAS HIS HOME.
WAIT, INUZUKA.

HOW IS SHE?
WHERE'S MOMOKO?
MOMOKO
WHO IS THAT!?
ZOOOO (CHILL)
LONG TIME NO SEE, EH...?
YO...
SFX: PURU (SHAKE) PURU PURU
...BE ...
THAT VOICE...
MOMOKOOO
MOMOKOOO
MOMOKOOO
.....
.....
NO, IT CAN'T...
PLEASE GIVE ME A HOME
TENKA

FORMER SHINDARA
RETTETSU-RYUU ASSASSIN
TENKA KOGANEI

CAN WE KEEP HIM?

?

← WASN'T WATCHING

WHAA-AAT!!?

GYAAAAAA

A

NOOOOO !!!

A H!

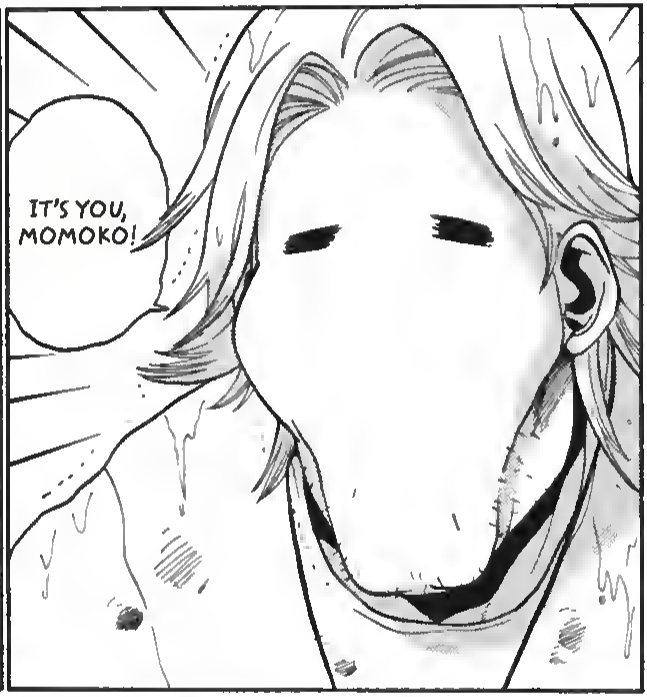
OH! MOMOKO! ♡

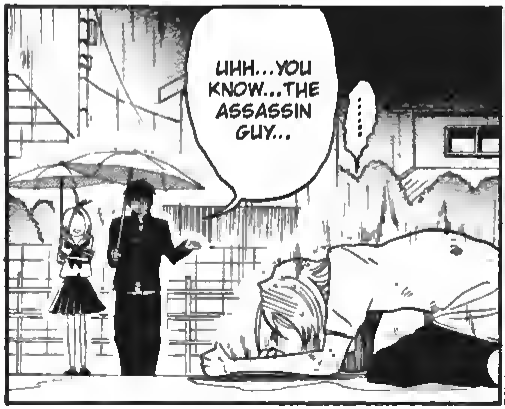
CHAPTER 19: MOTHER IS THE BOND – END

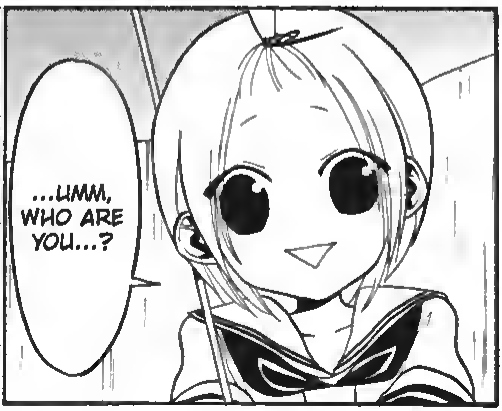
20. RETURN OF THE TIGER

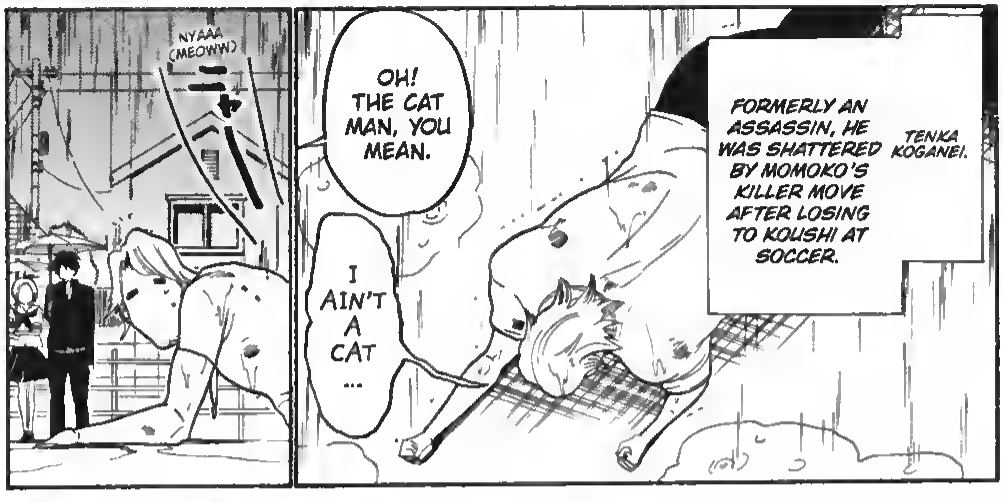
ZAAAAAA (FSHHHHH)
MOMOKO!

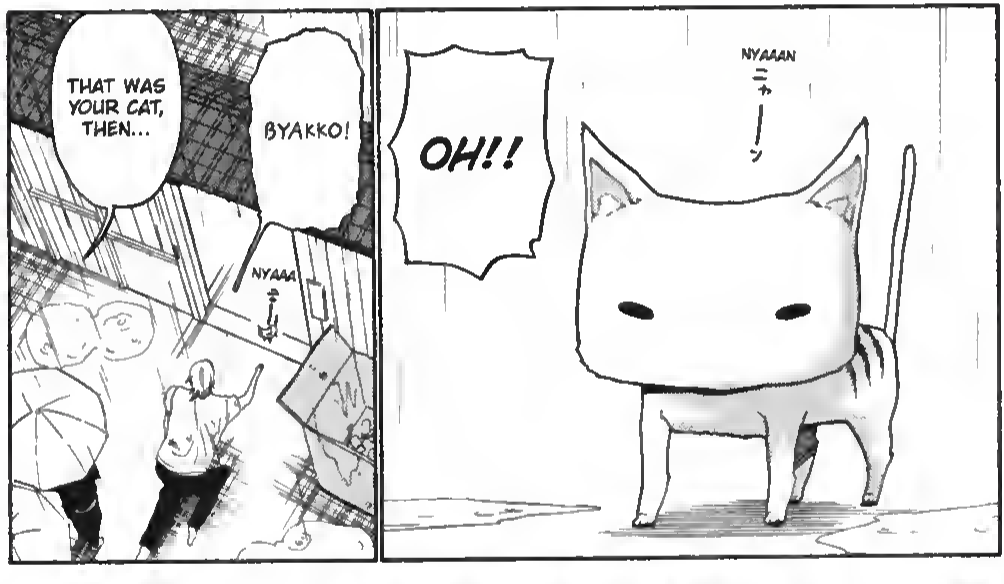
LONG TIME NO SEE!
I'VE MISSED YOU...
GOSH, IN THE TIME SINCE I LAST SAW YOU...
... YOU'VE GOTTEN SO P-PRETTY ...

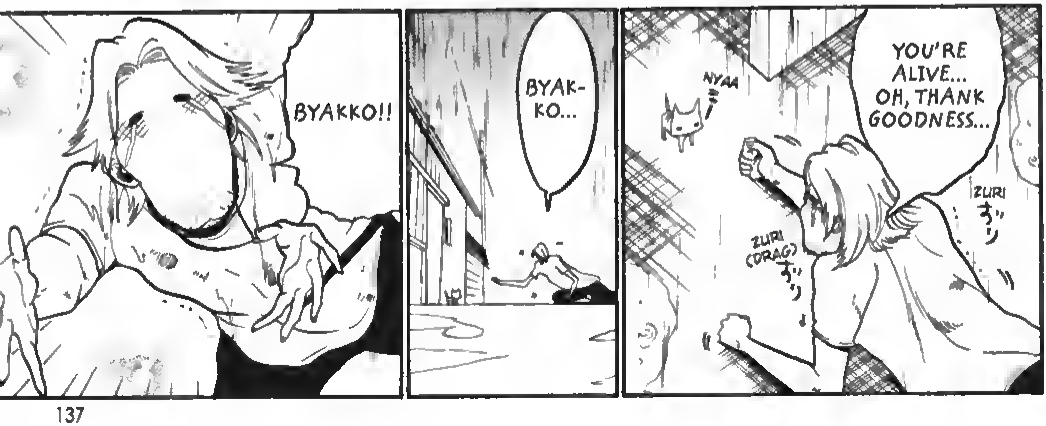

IT'S YOU, MOMOKO!


UHH...YOU KNOW...THE ASSASSIN GUY...
.....


...UMM, WHO ARE YOU...?


NYAAA (MEOWW)
OH! THE CAT MAN, YOU MEAN.
I AIN'T A CAT ...
FORMERLY AN ASSASSIN, HE WAS SHATTERED BY MOMOKO'S KILLER MOVE AFTER LOSING TO KOUSHI AT SOCCER.
TENKA KOGANEI.


THAT WAS YOUR CAT, THEN...
BYAKKO!
NYAAA
OH!!
NYAAAN


BYAKKO!!
BYAK-KO...
NYAA
YOU'RE ALIVE... OH, THANK GOODNESS...
ZURI
ZURI (DRAG)

NYAN (MROW)

ZASHU (ZLASHH)

ZAAAA (FSHHHH)

IT IS SAID THAT A CAT FORGETS HIS OWNER'S FACE AFTER A PERIOD OF TIME...

CAT MAN!?

BUSHUUU (BSSHT)

ガッ
GATTSU
ガッ
GATTSU (CHOMP)
ガッ
GATTSU

PWAAAA!!
ぷはっ!!
BACK TO LIFE!
I OWE YOU ONE.
THANKS MOMOKO, INUZUKA!
HEE-HEE! YOU'RE WELCOME.

GATTSU
がっがっ
GATTSU
GATTSU
がっがっ
GATTSU

ごっごっ
ごっごっ

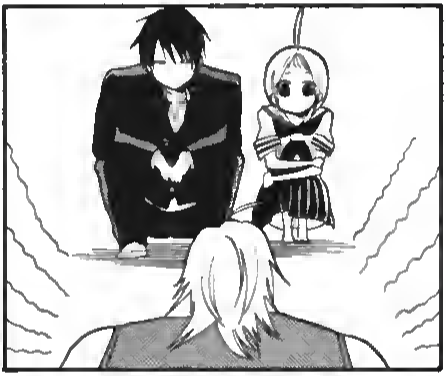
SFX: GO (GLUG) GO GO GO GO

...WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE?
BY THE WAY...

I REALIZE... THIS ISN'T GONNA SOUND GOOD...
.....
...AND IT'S KIND OF A LONG STORY TO TELL...

ABOUT THAT...
...RIGHT...

.....
BAD VIBES



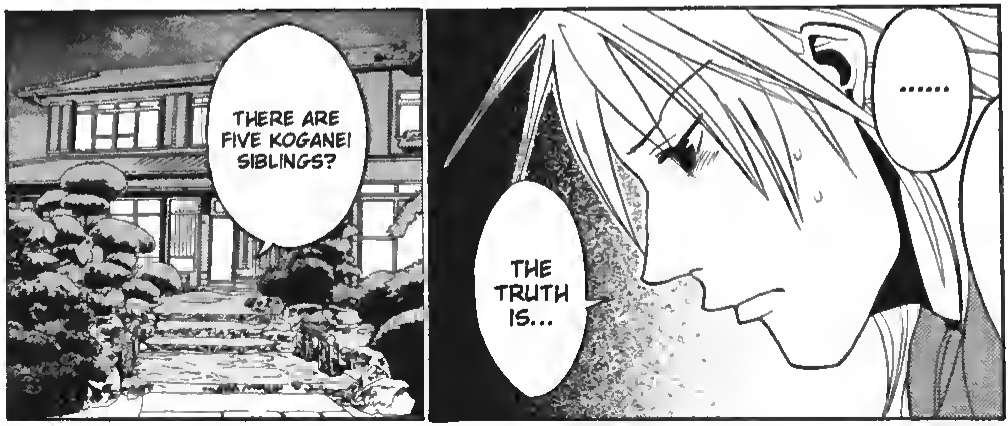
GET OUT.

.....
BUT YOU NEED TO HEAR IT.

YEAH.
...INU-ZUKA!

I DIDN'T EVEN TELL YOU YET!!!

I DON'T WANNA HEAR IT.



...AND ONE MORE BROTHER, AT THE TOP.

AND, YOU SEE...THE PROBLEM IS...

...MY YOUNGER BROTHER ....

...MY OLDER SISTER ...

...MY OLDER BROTHER ...

YEP. FIVE OF US IN ALL.

ASIDE FROM ME, THERE'S ...

...AFTER *YOU*, INUZUKA.

...THEY'RE ALL COMING...

KOUSHI'S GUESS

NYAAAN (MREOWWW)

GREAT. YOUR SIBLINGS ...

WH-WHAT!? DON'T BE CRAZY!!!

CAN I BEAT THEM WITH PLASTIC BOTTLES TOO...?

...ASSAS-SINS?

MORE...

THEY'RE NUTS, MAN!! THIS IS BAD NEWS FOR YOU!!

DON'T TREAT THEM LIKE SOME KIND OF JOKE!! YOU'LL WIND UP DEAD!

I SEE THAT YOU'RE SERI-OUS.

BUT LOOK!

.....

... OKAY ...

.....

.....

YOU DON'T GET IT...

B-

WHY DO YOU CARE ABOUT MY LIFE NOW?

YOU TRIED TO KILL ME ONCE ...

YOU WERE AN ASSASSIN, RIGHT?

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO DOESN'T GET IT.

SFX. GONYO (MUTTER) GONYO

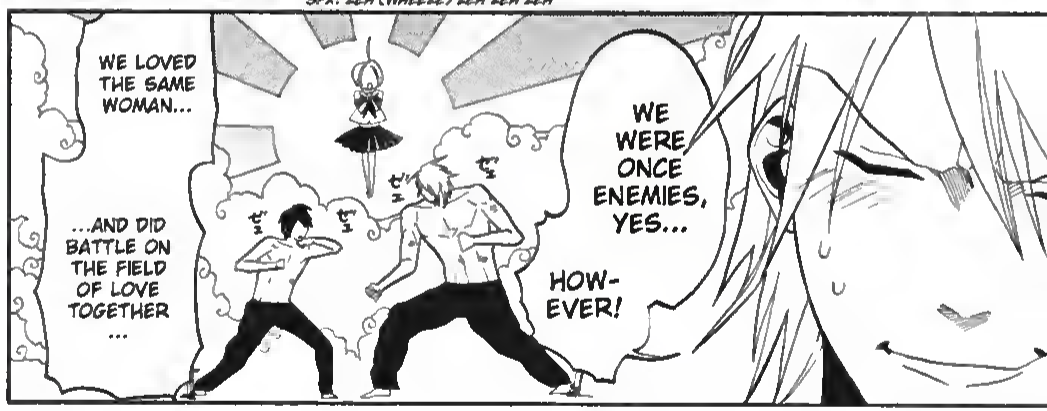
.....
.....

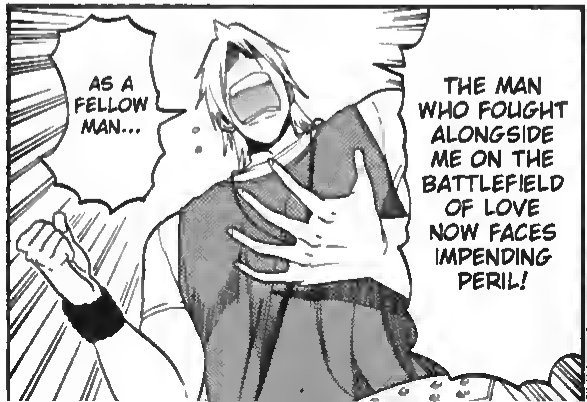
YOU KNOW...

BE-CAUSE! UMM...

SFX: ZEH (WHEEZE) ZEH ZEH ZEH

SFX: GU (THUMBS-UP)



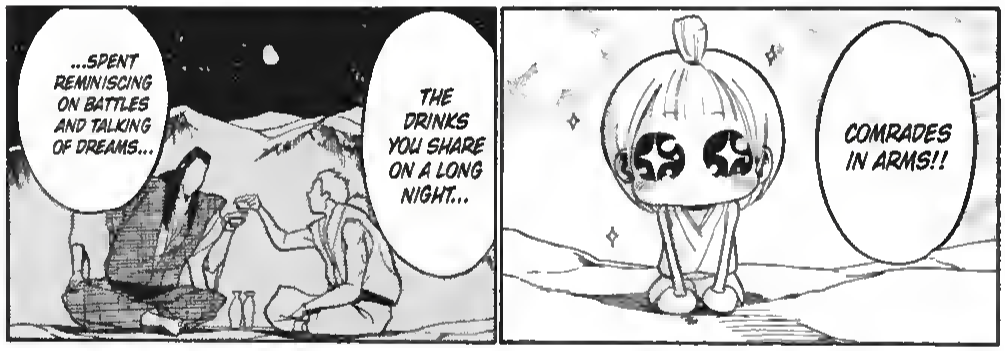


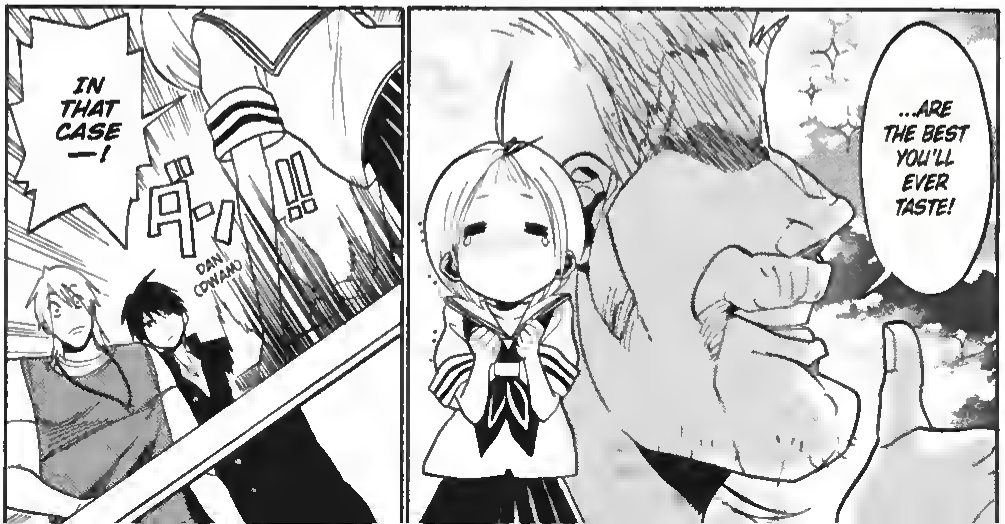
ONE SHOT! KA-POW!
...WON'T GET ANYWHERE NEAR YOU! I'LL TAKE THEM OUT!
...MY WICKED SIB-LINGS ...
BUT NEVER FEAR! FOR NOW THAT I AM HERE...
SFX: SHU (FSH) SHU SHU
RIGHT?
TALK ABOUT A CREEP ...
COM-RADE IN ARMS? PLEASE
...I CAN'T JUST STAND BY AND WATCH!

じ
JIIIIN (MOVED)
PURU (TREMBLE)
PURU
PURU
PURU

...ON THE BATTLEFIELD OF LOVE!!
OHHHH!
A COMRADE IN ARMS...

A MAN SPEAKS WITH HIS FISTS.
... ENEMIES BECOME FRIENDS ...
ONCE HE HAS TRADED BLOWS WITH ANOTHER MAN...
SO THIS MUST BE...
...THE FIERCE, PASSIONATE FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN GENTLEMEN YOU TOLD ME ABOUT...
... FATHER ...!
MOMOKO ...
LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT MEN.


...SPENT REMINISCING ON BATTLES AND TALKING OF DREAMS...
THE DRINKS YOU SHARE ON A LONG NIGHT...
COMRADES IN ARMS!!


IN THAT CASE —!
!!
DAN COWAKO
...ARE THE BEST YOU'LL EVER TASTE!

...HONOR US WITH YOUR PRESENCE TONIGHT !!!

YOU SIMPLY MUST...

JAAAAAN (TA-DAAAAA)

ジャーン!!

WHAAAT!?

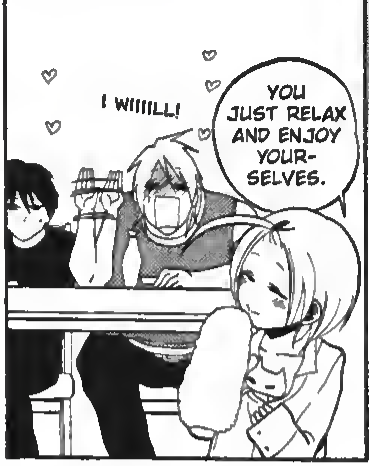
SURE!

IF YOU REALLY INSIST...

SFX: PERO CLICK PERO

NO! GET OUT OF HERE!

...I'LL SPEND THE NIGHT!


I WIIIILL!
YOU JUST RELAX AND ENJOY YOUR-SELVES.

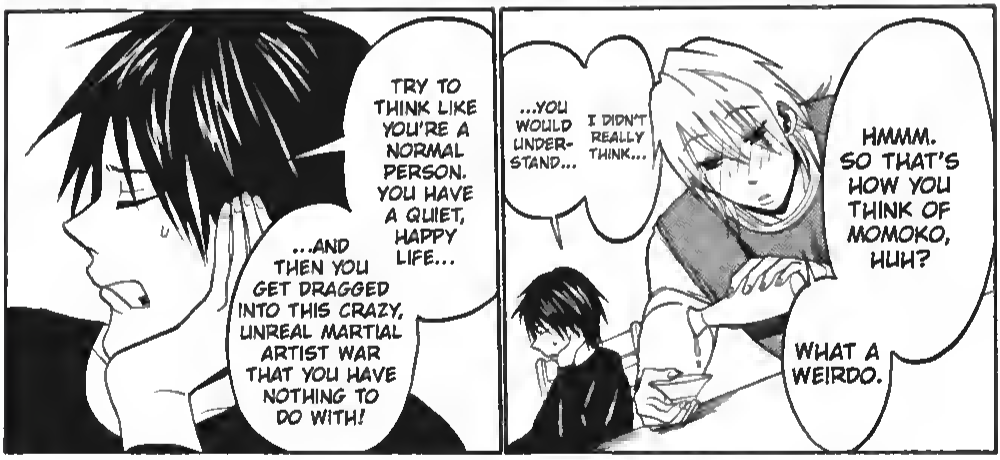
YOU SHOULDN'T BE DRINKING, MINOR...
MOMOKO'S SUCH A LEET SWITTLE DARLING!
AWW, SHE'S SO CUTE!
ヒック
HIKKU (HIC)

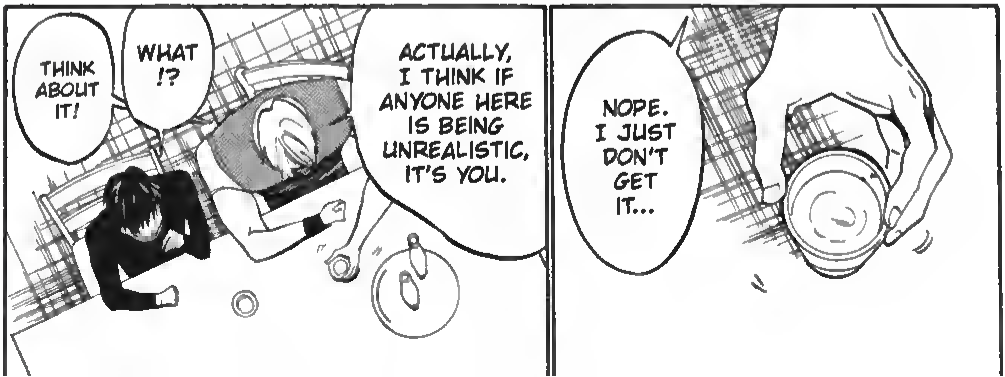
ほか
HOKA (PUFF)
ほか
HOKA

ヒック
HIKKU (TWITCH)
...I CAN FEEL THE HATE RISIN' AGAIN...

HIKKU
ヒック
...Y'R SUCH A LUCKY PUNK, KNOW THAT...?
GOD DANGIT ...
MAAAAN, I CAN'T B'LEEVE YOU GET TA LIVE LIKE THIS EVERY DAY...
ヒック
HIKKU

IT'S THE WORST THING THAT'S EVER HAPPENED TO ME.
.....
YOU THINK I'M LUCKY? HAH.
...MY LIFE'S BEEN ONE NONSTOP BLUR OF ASSASSINS.
EVER SINCE SHE SHOWED UP AND ANNOUNCED HERSELF AS MY FIANCÉE...


TRY TO THINK LIKE YOU'RE A NORMAL PERSON. YOU HAVE A QUIET, HAPPY LIFE...
...AND THEN YOU GET DRAGGED INTO THIS CRAZY, UNREAL MARTIAL ARTIST WAR THAT YOU HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH!
...YOU WOULD UNDER-STAND...
I DIDN'T REALLY THINK...
HMMM. SO THAT'S HOW YOU THINK OF MOMOKO, HUH?
WHAT A WEIRDO.


THINK ABOUT IT!
WHAT !?
ACTUALLY, I THINK IF ANYONE HERE IS BEING UNREALISTIC, IT'S YOU.
NOPE. I JUST DON'T GET IT...

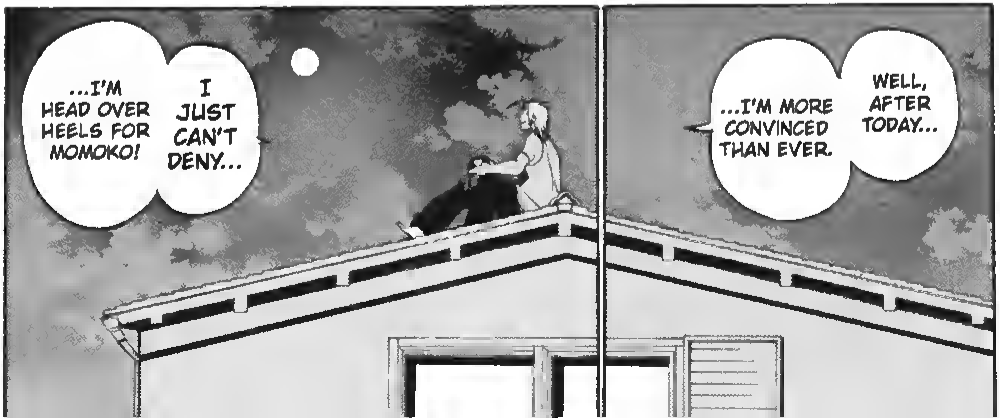
THESE GUYS ARE REALLY COMIN' FOR YOU AND REALLY TRYIN' TO KILL YOU, RIGHT?

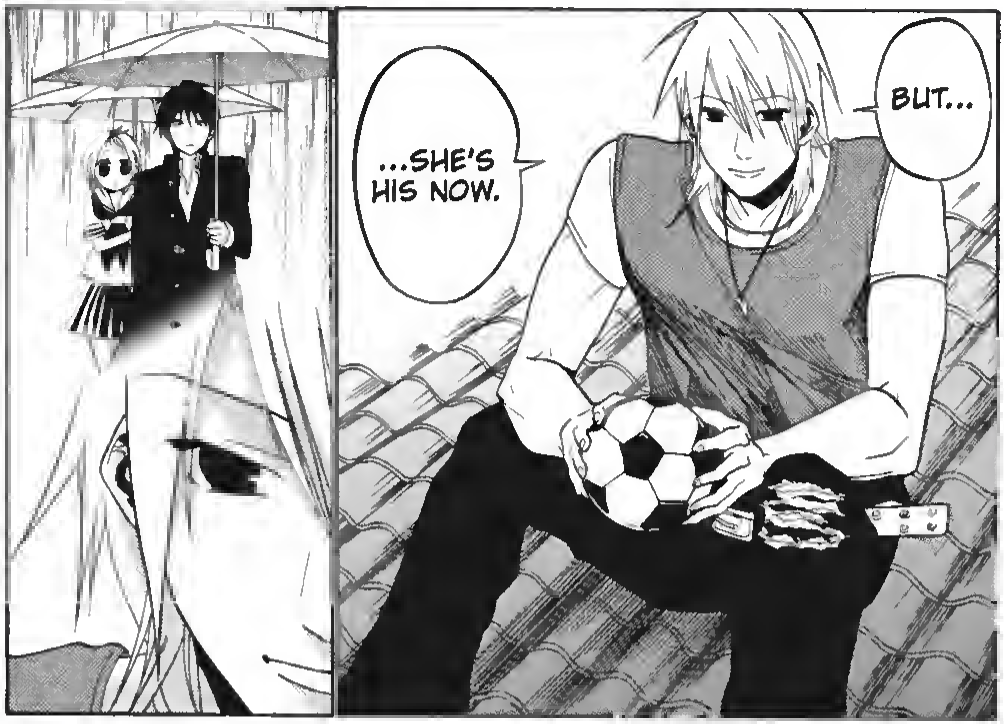
OBVIOUSLY IT *DOES* HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH YOU.

SO WHY ARE YOU SO HUNG UP ON NOT DOIN' ANY MARTIAL ARTS?

YOU SHOULD! YOU SHOULD DEFEND YOURSELF.

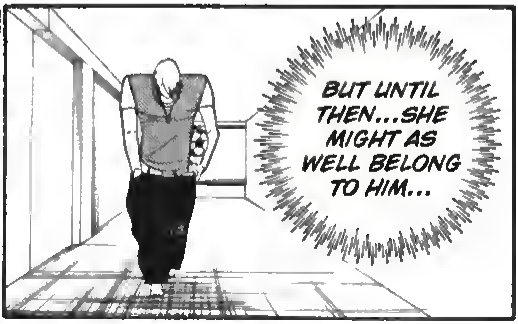
.....
WHY ...
...WHY DON'T I...?
SO WHY DON'T YOU?
I'M RIGHT HERE, MOMOKO!
.....
YES, I'M STILL DRINKING!
AHHHH!
.....
.....

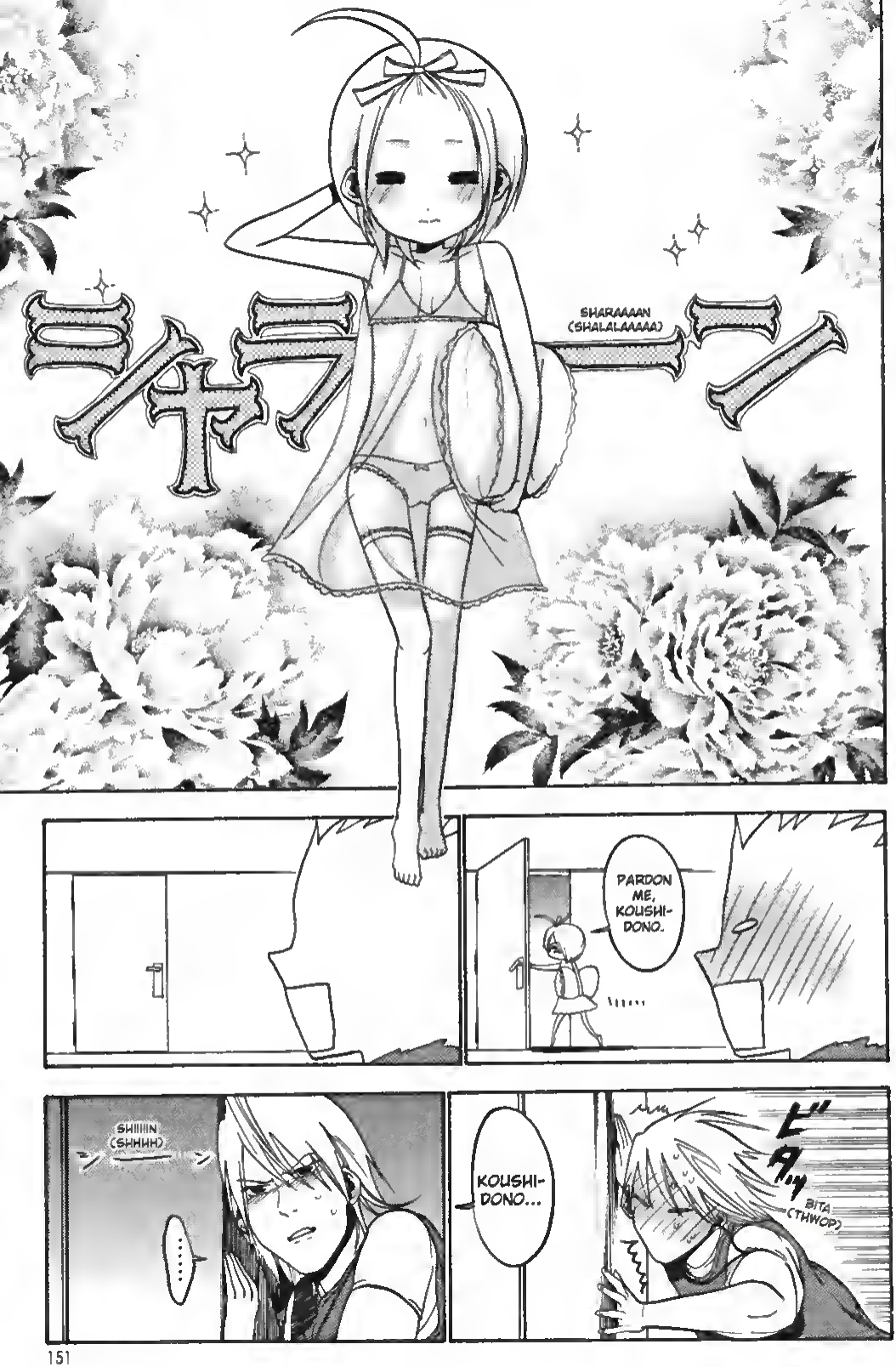

...I'M HEAD OVER HEELS FOR MOMOKO!
I JUST CAN'T DENY...
...I'M MORE CONVINCED THAN EVER.
WELL, AFTER TODAY...


BUT...
...SHE'S HIS NOW.

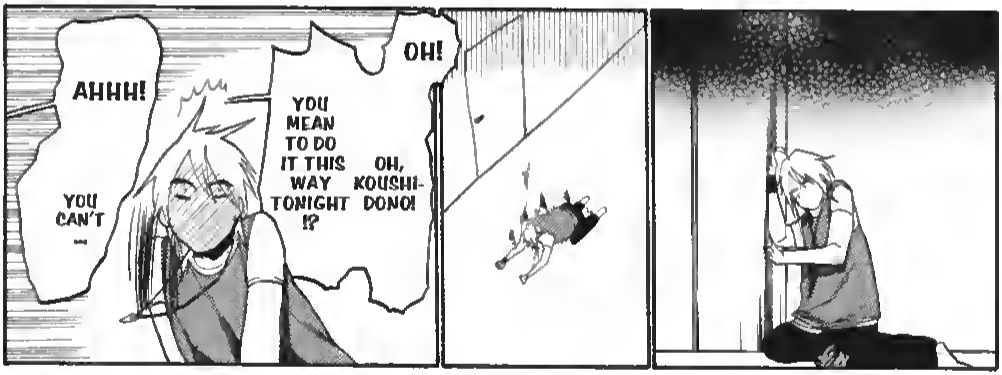
...SHE CAN'T HELP BUT TURN MY WAY...!
A MAN SO GREAT...

...BUT SOMEDAY, I'M GONNA BE A BETTER MAN THAN HE IS...!
I LOST TO INUZUKA WHEN WE DUELED...


BUT UNTIL THEN...SHE MIGHT AS WELL BELONG TO HIM...


SHARAAAAN (SHALALAAAAA)
PARDON ME, KOUSHI-DONO.
SHIIIIN (SHHHH)
KOUSHI-DONO...
BITA (THWOP)

MAY I SHARE YOUR BED TONIGHT?



DEVICE

立入禁止

THIS IS TOO CRUEL...

FORGET IT!! I CAN'T STAND THE GUY AFTER ALL!!!

SIGN: NO TRESPASSING

YOU HAVE MY THANKS, SENDAYUU.

IT WASN'T ME.

....

...WHO MADE THAT LIST.

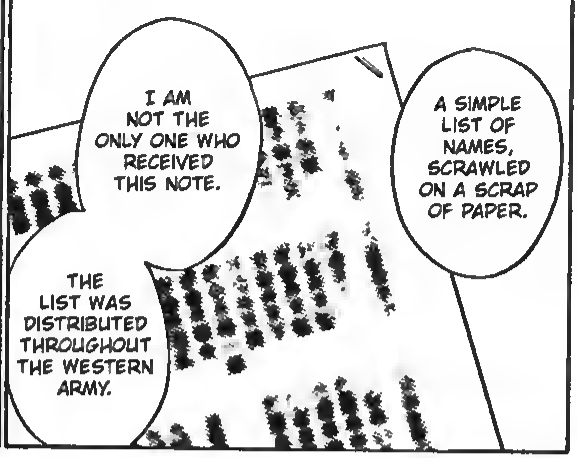
I WAS NOT THE ONE...

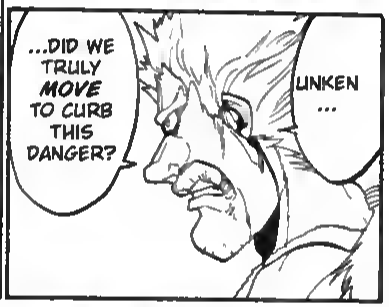
THEN WHO!?

!?

BY WRITING UP THIS LIST OF POTENTIAL ASSASSINS...

...WE HAD JUST CAUSE TO AVERT SUCH AN ACT FROM BEING COMMITTED.





CHAPTER 20. RETURN OF THE TIGER – END

21. LET NOTHING HAPPEN

THAT DOESN'T MATTER.

I DON'T WANT TO...

AWW ...

IT'S COMMON SENSE. YOU HAVE TO RETURN A PET TO ITS RIGHTFUL OWNER.

SENPAAAAI!

SFX: PERO (LICK) PERO

DON'T BE LONELY WITHOUT ME... BYAKKO...

ニャ

NYAAA (MEOWWW)

OVER HERE!

SO HAS HE MOVED IN WITH YOU YET?

YES. NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.

PLEASE COME IN AND MAKE YOURSELVES COMFORT-ABLE!

NIKO NIKO (GRIN)

RIGHT...

WASSUP, INUZUKA?

PIROPIRO

PIROPIRO

PIROPIRO (DING-A-LING)

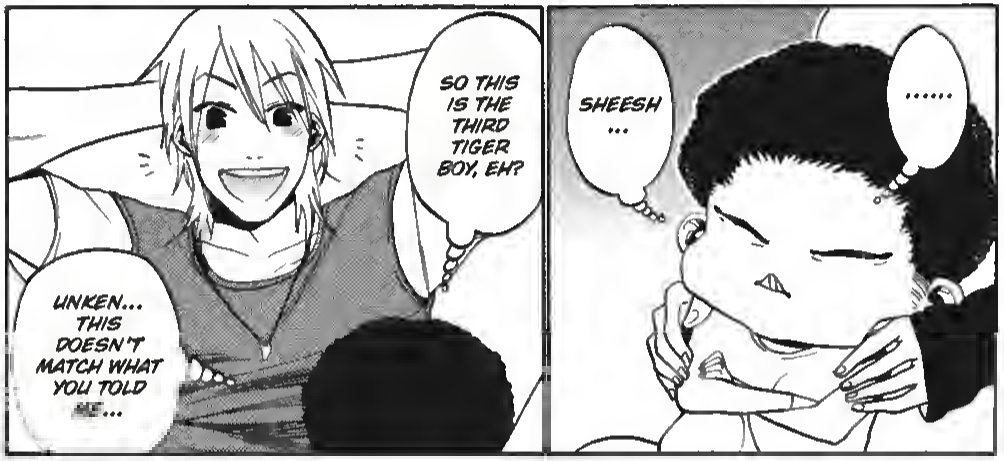
SEE?

BORI (SCRITCH)

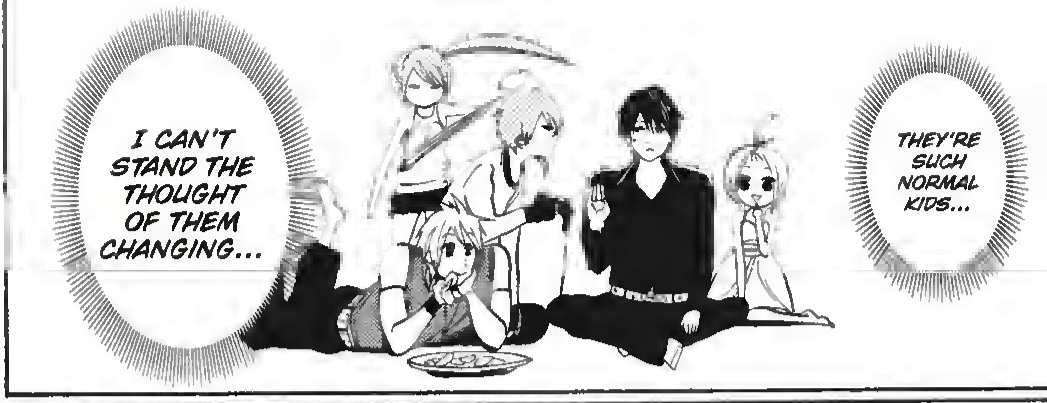
BORI

...
HE'S FITTING RIGHT IN.
HISS!
COME ON, ASS! PAY ATTENTION TO THE CUTSCENE!
ONII-CHAN!
COME ON IN!
GORO (PURR)
ゴロゴロ
GORO
OKAY, PEOPLE.
ZA (ZSH)
GRAAA!
GYAAA!
I'VE HEARD ENOUGH NOISE OUTTA YOU FOR ONE DAY...
BAAAAN (BOOOM)

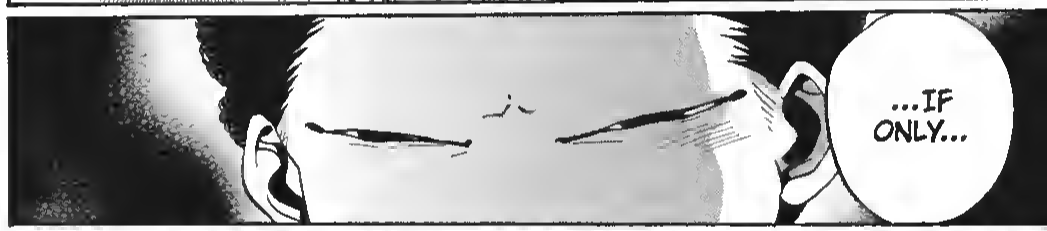
OH, SHE'S NOT SO BAD, AS LONG AS YOU PAY THE RENT!
HA HA HA
THAT'S OUR LAND-LADY.
SH-SHE'S SCARY ...
BISHI (SALUTE) ビシッ


SO THIS IS THE THIRD TIGER BOY, EH?
UNKEN... THIS DOESN'T MATCH WHAT YOU TOLD ME...
SHEESH ...
.....

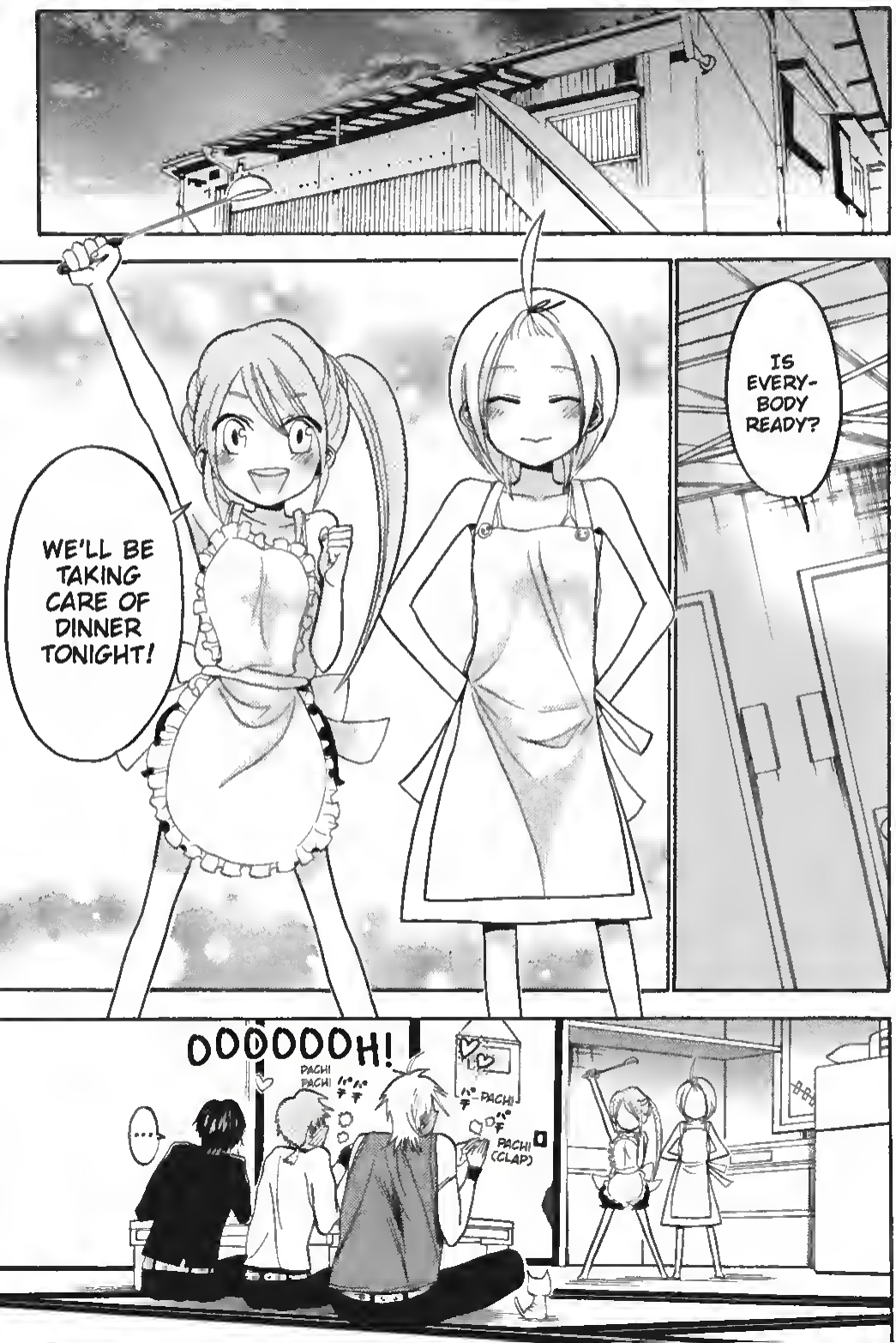
HE LOOKS LIKE A NORMAL BOY TO ME...
THOSE BRATS HAVE DANGEROUS, FERAL EYES... FULL OF MALICE...!
.....
.....
NNH...

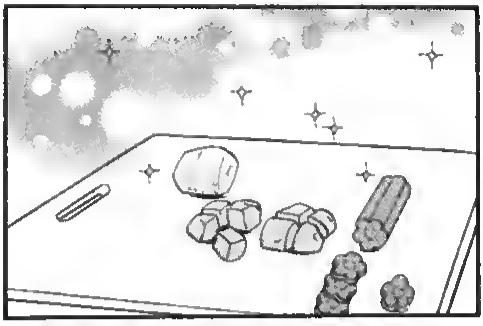

I CAN'T STAND THE THOUGHT OF THEM CHANGING...
THEY'RE SUCH NORMAL KIDS...

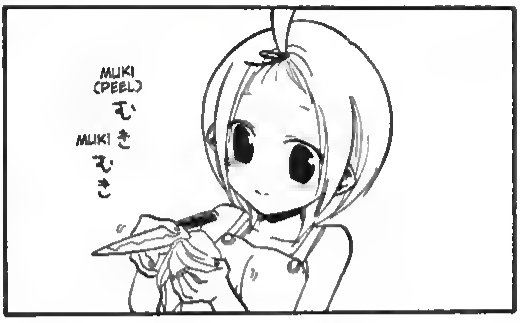
...SHEDDING BLOOD...

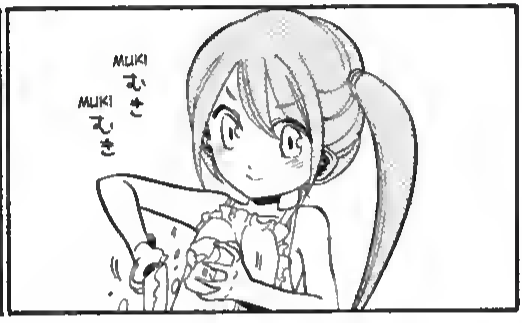

...IF ONLY...

...IF ONLY THIS WOULD ALL RESOLVE ITSELF PEACE-FULLY...


IS EVERY-BODY READY?
WE'LL BE TAKING CARE OF DINNER TONIGHT!
OOOOOOH!
PACHI PACHI
PACHI
PACHI (CLAP)
...

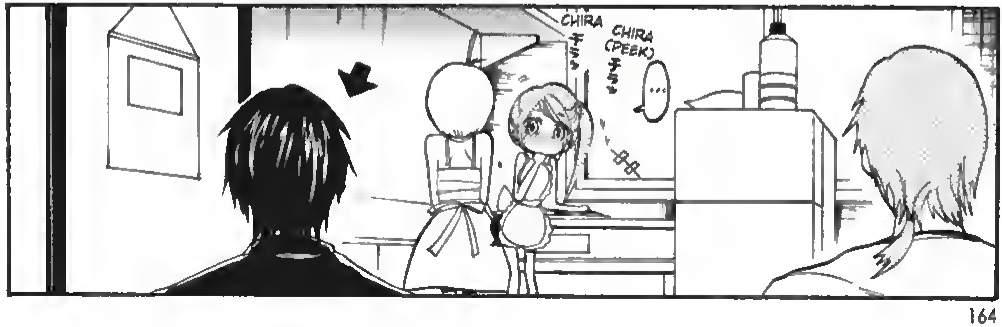



MUKI (PEEL) むき
MUKI むき

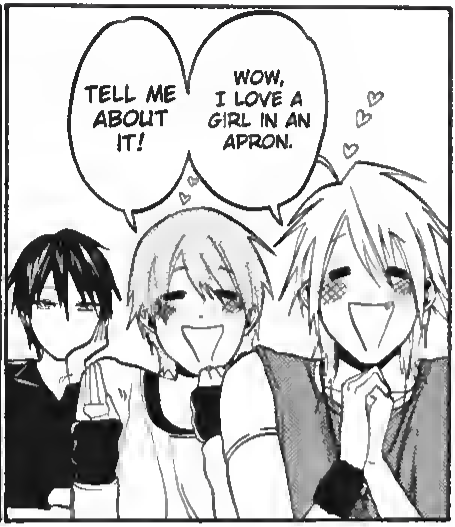

MUKI むき
MUKI むき

GIKU (GERK)
HA HA HA.
YOU'LL GET MUCH BETTER ONCE YOU HAVE SOMEONE TO COOK FOR.

I-I HAVE HAD LOTS OF PRACTICE COOKING, AS WIFE TRAINING... YOU KNOW...


CHIRA チラ
CHIRA (PEEK) チラ
...

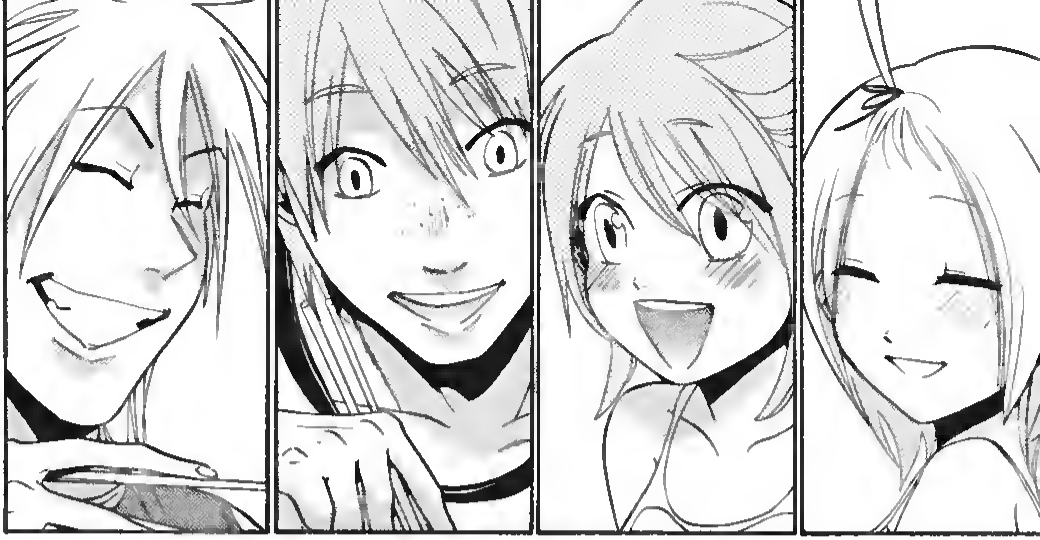
SHUT YOUR MOUTH! I WOULD NOT HOLD SUCH LOW FEELINGS TOWARD MY DEAR NEE-SAN!!
WHA —!?
L-LIKE —!?
WHAT, YOU LIKE THAT OTHER CHICK?

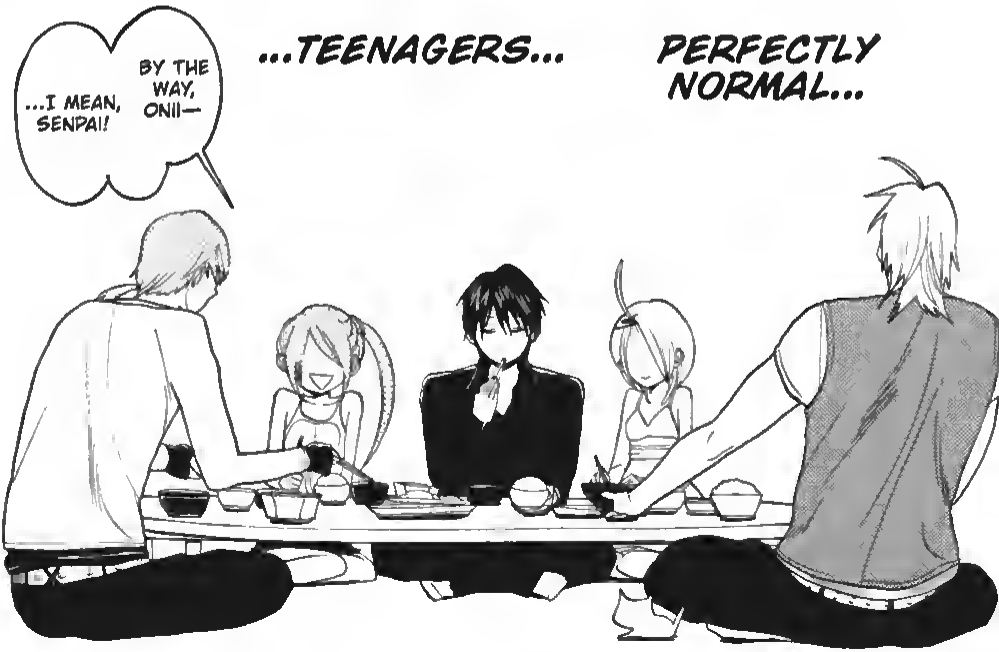

TELL ME ABOUT IT!
WOW, I LOVE A GIRL IN AN APRON.

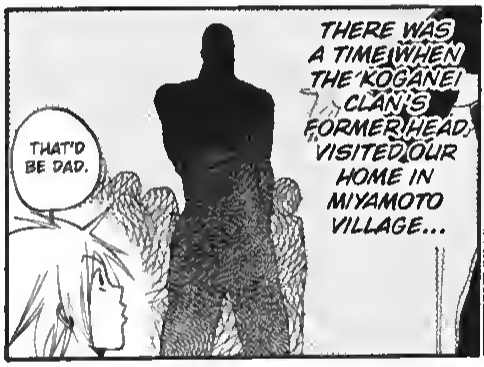
.....

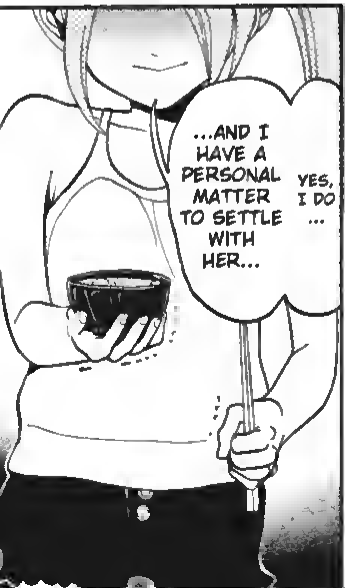
あわ AWA (FLUSTER)
あわ AWA
... AND ...
... AND ...
THEY WOULD BE MORE... DIGNIFIED AND... NOBLE, AND...
IT'S LIKE A MIDDLE SCHOOL FIELD TRIP.
WHAT AM I WATCHING?

... THEY'RE ALMOST ...
BUT, YOU KNOW, WHEN THEY'RE IN AN EVERYDAY SETTING...




...I MEAN, SENPAI!
BY THE WAY, ONII—
...TEENAGERS...
PERFECTLY NORMAL...





ABOUT THE ASSAS-SINS...

BU (BFF)

I'VE HEARD THE STORIES.

IT'S THE KOGANEI SIBLINGS, ISN'T IT?

I TAKE IT ALL BACK...

DO YOU KNOW THEM, NEE-SAN?

YES. THE KOGANEIS ARE ALSO MEMBERS OF THE WESTERN ARMY.

THERE WAS A TIME WHEN THE KOGANEI CLAN'S FORMER HEAD VISITED OUR HOME IN MIYAMOTO VILLAGE...

THAT'D BE DAD.

IT WAS THEN THAT I MET THAT GIRL...

THAT HORRID, DETESTABLE PING-PONG GIRL...!!

...OH...

YOU KNOW MY SISTER, THEN?

YES, I DO...

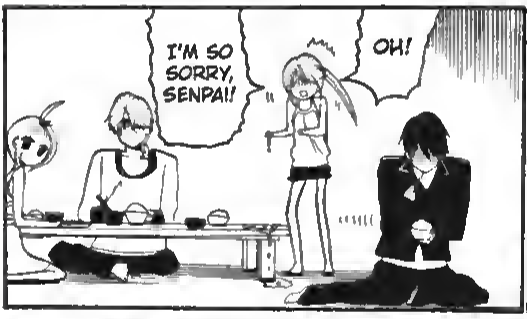
...AND I HAVE A PERSONAL MATTER TO SETTLE WITH HER...

...TO SCHEDULE A RE-MATCH!

I'M JUST DYING FOR THE OPPORTUNITY...

GUSHA (CRASH)

(PWOOOO)



SFX: POTA (DRIP) POTA

I, IROHA MIYA-MOTO ...

...PLEDGE TO RISK MY LIFE FOR YOU IN BATTLE, SENPAI!

ZA (ZSH)

I'M WITH HER.

M- ME TOO!

ZA

I'VE GOT YOUR BACK, PAL!

AND I, OF COURSE ...

...WOULD GIVE MY LIFE TO SAVE YOURS, KOUSHI-DONO...!

ZA

TOGETHER WE CAN STOP THE KOGANEI SIBLINGS! WITH THE UNITED POWER OF FIVE...

1 →

2 →

← 3

← 4

5 ↓

YES!
WE SHOULD STOP BY AGAIN!
Y-YOU THINK SO...?
TEKU
TEKU
WELL... THAT WAS A FUN VISIT...
SFX: TEKU (TROK) TEKU
...
WE'LL HAVE TO TRAIN AS A GROUP OF FIVE NEXT TIME!
I THINK I PREFER STAYING HOME...
HA HA...
WE CAN EMERGE VICTORIOUS IN THE FIGHT AHEAD!!
...STOP THE KOGANEI SIBLINGS!

MORE ASSASSINS.

WHEN WILL THIS END?

ALL I WANT IS TO LIVE IN PEACE...

I CAN'T TAKE IT...

IF ONLY...

...I COULD WAKE UP TOMORROW ...

THAT'S ALL I WANT, EVERY SINGLE DAY...

...GO TO BED...

...DO MY HOMEWORK...

...TAKE A BATH...

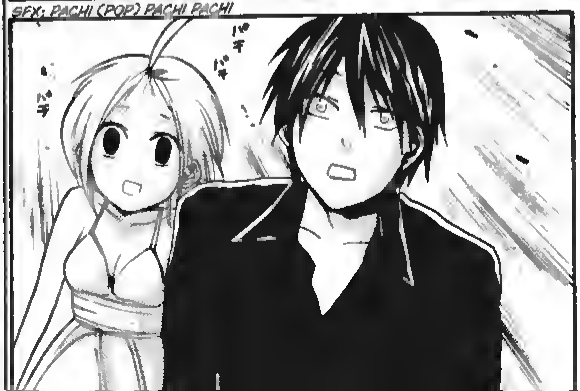
I WANT TO READ THE PAPER WHEN I GET THERE...

ZAWA
ZAWA (MURMUR)
HUH?
...TO A WORLD WHERE NOTHING EVER HAPPENED!!

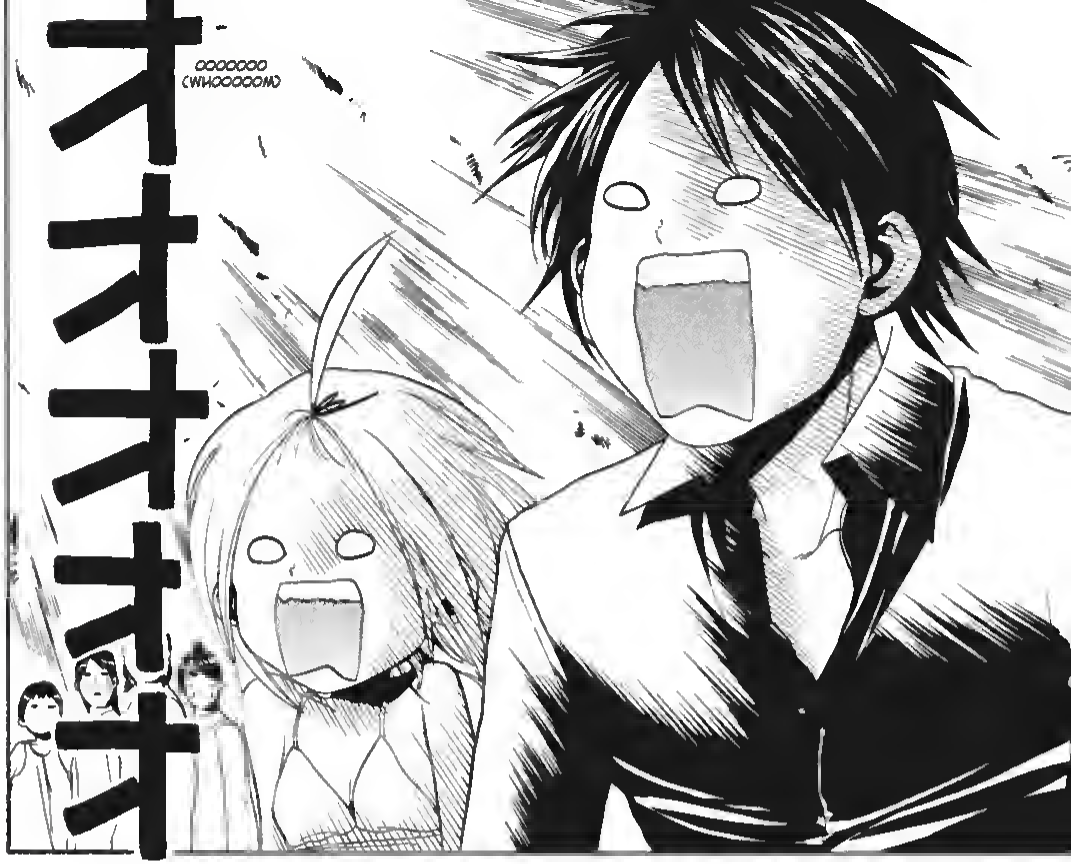
ZAWA
ZAWA
THERE'S A BIG CROWD...
DOES IT SEEM BRIGHT TO YOU UP AHEAD?

GOOOO (FWOOOM)
BAKI (CRAKK)
BAKI

SFX: HISO (WHISPER) HISO HISO
THE POOR INUZUKAS ...
THEIR NICE HOUSE ...
ZAWA
ZAWA
WHO COULD HAVE DONE IT?
I DON'T KNOW ...


SFX: PACHI (POP) PACHI PACHI

ゴゴ
ゴゴゴ
GOOOO
(FWOOOM)



CHAPTER 21: LET NOTHING HAPPEN – END

ゴオオオ
GOOOO

KOSO (SCUTTLE)
KOSO

DID YOU SET THIS COWARDLY BLAZE?
WAS IT YOU?
ZA (ZSHH)

WHY...?

ガロ
GIRO (GLARE)

YOU LITTLE RATS ...!!

22. FATHER'S WORDS

ほか
HOKA
(PUFF)
ほか
HOKA

AH... OHHH...

BORO (CRUMBLE) BORO

WHAT COULD'VE CAUSED SUCH A TERRIBLE FIRE...?

KOUSHI-DONO...! SNAP OUT OF IT! HANG IN THERE...!

THAT RIGHT THERE... THAT WAS MY ROOM...

PURU (TREMBLE) PURU

D-D...!

D...

OH!

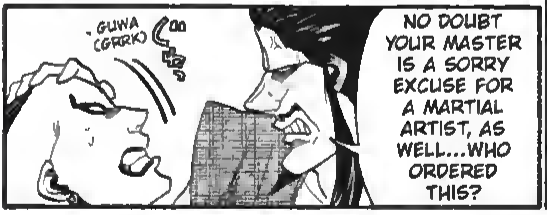
DOSA (THWOMP)

IT WAS THE WORK OF *THESE* SLUGS.

ばーーーーーん

BAAAAAN (BOOOM)

DAD!!!

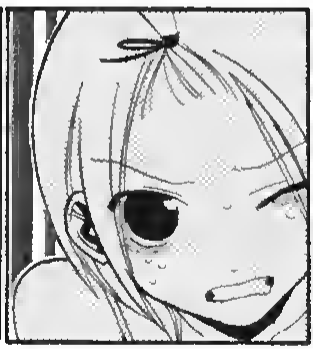


ZOOOOO (CHILL)
ゴ
ォォォォォ…
GOOOOO (FWOOOOM)
……
BA (SHWAP)
!!
KOUSHI-DONO!!!
BA (LEAP)
ば
!?

ズドドドドーン

!!?

SFX: ZOOOOO (ZRRRR)



"SORRY EXCUSE FOR A MARTIAL ARTIST" ...?

シュウウウ...

SHUUUU (FSHHHH)

DOOOOOOO (DMMMMMM)
I'M AFRAID I CAN'T LET THAT ONE PASS.
THERE YOU ARE.
TH- THERE ARE A LOT OF THEM!
!KEEEEE

BUTSU (MUTTER)
BUTSU
BUTSU
BUTSU
BY THE ELEMENT OF FIRE YOU SHALL BURST.
BY THE ELEMENT OF FIRE YOU SHALL BURST.
SU
SU
SU
SU
BY THE ELEMENT OF FIRE YOU SHALL BURST.
SU (SHH)

YOU SHALL BURST
YOU SHALL BURST
ZOOOO (CHILLS)
...!
BAH.
YOU SHALL BURST
YOU SHALL BURST

...I ALONE ...
... STAND AL-MIGHTY !!
BOOOO (BWOOMMM)

I'VE HEARD ENOUGH ...
SUU (SFFF)

BA (ZWAP)
SKY ABOVE ...
...SKY BELOW ...
BA

THREE REALMS ...
...OF CORPOREAL ...
...SUFFERING...
(WO)
...THROUGH ME...
... ALONE ...
... LIES ...
... PEACE !!
(GUAA (GRAAH)

KAAA-AAAAA!!!!
BARI (ZWAP?)
BARI
BARI
BARI
BARI
BARI
BARI
BIKAAAA (BZOWWW)

SECRET ART: SIX WORLDS TRANSCENDENTAL BINDING SHOCK!

BIKIIIIN (TINNNGGGG)

BARI (ZAP)

BARI

BARI

BARI

BARI

GAAAAAAHHH!

SFX MISHI (CRIK) MISHI MISHI MISHI MISHI

I...

I CAN'T MOVE...!

NOT EVEN A SINGLE FINGER!

SFX ZO (ZWUH)

GAAA (VOOOM)

BAH.

AMAZING...

H-

HOLY CRAP...

BIKU (TWITCH)

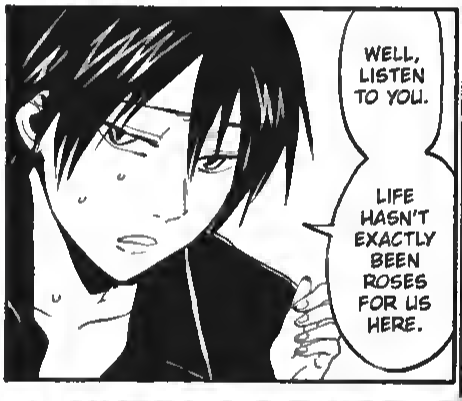
I HAD ABSOLUTELY NO IDEA...

...THAT MY DAD WAS THIS POWERFUL...!!

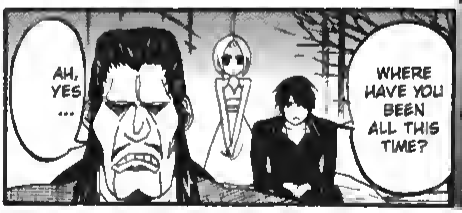
BIKAAAAA (ZWAAAA)

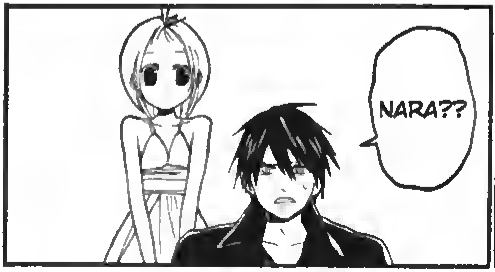
I'M FREE!
WE MUST AWAY!!
ばっ
BA (SWP)
!!
バラッ
BAFU (FABOOM)
!!!
ゲホ
GEHO (KOFF)
ゲホッ
GEHO
FU (FSH)
シュウウウ……
SHUUUUU (FSHHHH)
GEHO
ゲホ
GEHO
ゲホ
GEHO
ゲホッ
BLAST ...
シュウウウウ……
SHUUUUU
I'VE LET THEM WRIGGLE AWAY...

IT'S REALLY... ALL GONE...

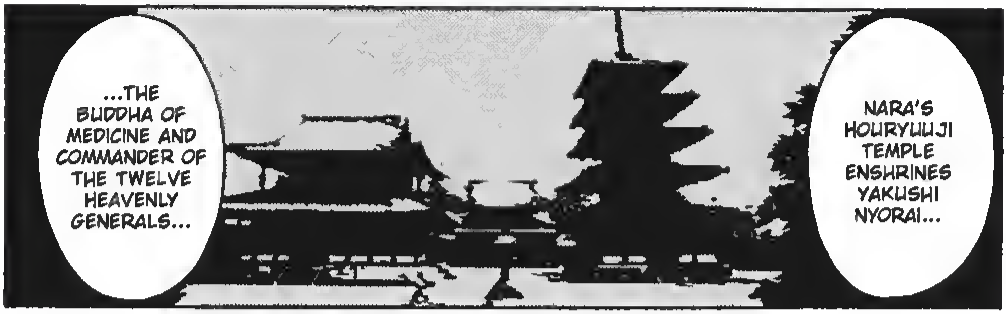

WELL, LISTEN TO YOU.
LIFE HASN'T EXACTLY BEEN ROSES FOR US HERE.

SPARE ME YOUR TEARS.
SIGH...WHY DOES THIS ALWAYS HAPPEN TO ME...?

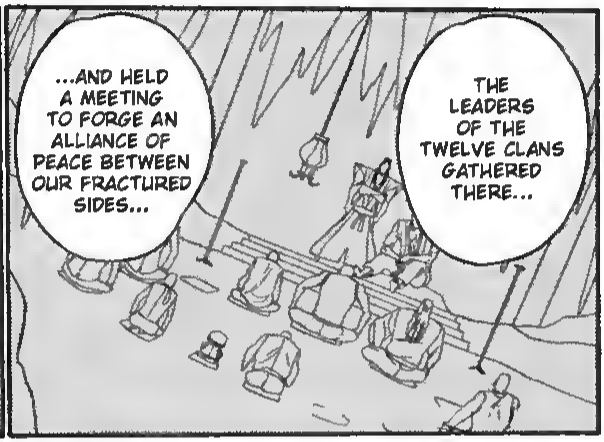

AH, YES ...
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN ALL THIS TIME?


NARA??

IN NARA.
.....


...THE BUDDHA OF MEDICINE AND COMMANDER OF THE TWELVE HEAVENLY GENERALS...
NARA'S HOURYUUJI TEMPLE ENSHRINES YAKUSHI NYORAI...

...
NEARLY.
THE AGREEMENT WAS UNANIMOUS ...

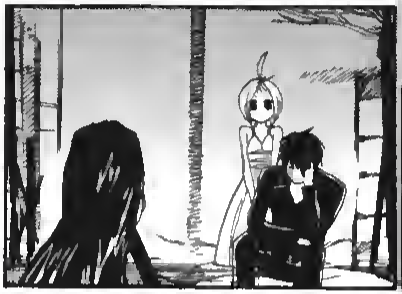

...AND HELD A MEETING TO FORGE AN ALLIANCE OF PEACE BETWEEN OUR FRACTURED SIDES...
THE LEADERS OF THE TWELVE CLANS GATHERED THERE...

ONLY THE KOGANEI CLAN FAILED TO MAKE AN APPEARANCE...

.....
.....
ZO (CHILL)

...THE TIGERS WILL BARE THEIR FANGS AGAIN SOON.
THIS FIRE WILL HAVE BEEN THEIR WORK.
AND THERE IS REASON TO BELIEVE ...

I WILL HAVE TO LEAVE AGAIN AT ONCE.
...I SHOULD BE SAFE FROM—



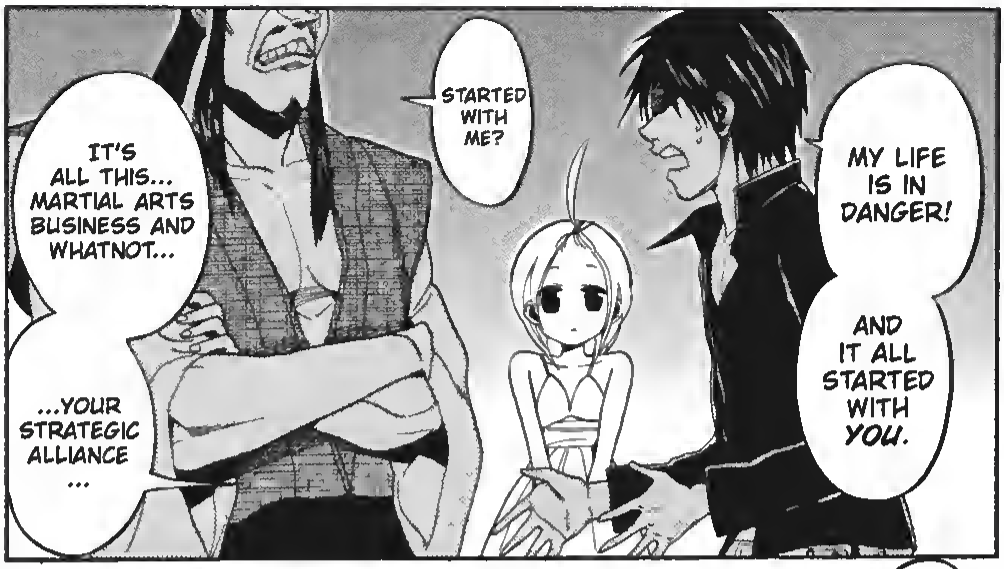
.....
W-WELL, OKAY... BUT NOW THAT DAD IS BACK...
...WITH THOSE INSANE POWERS AT HIS DISPOSAL ...

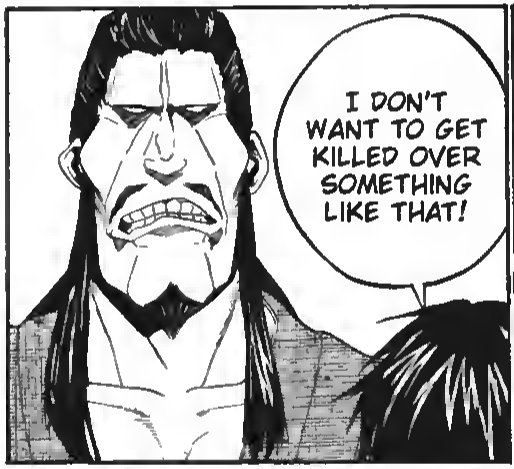
I HAVE OTHER CONCERNS ASIDE FROM THE TIGERS.
WHA... N-NO, DAD! WAIT!

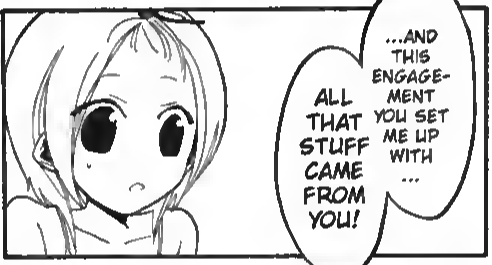
WHAT !?
GYO (GACKO)

IRRE-SPON-SIBLE?
.....

THIS IS IRRESPON-SIBLE!


IT'S ALL THIS... MARTIAL ARTS BUSINESS AND WHATNOT...
...YOUR STRATEGIC ALLIANCE ...
STARTED WITH ME?
MY LIFE IS IN DANGER!
AND IT ALL STARTED WITH YOU.

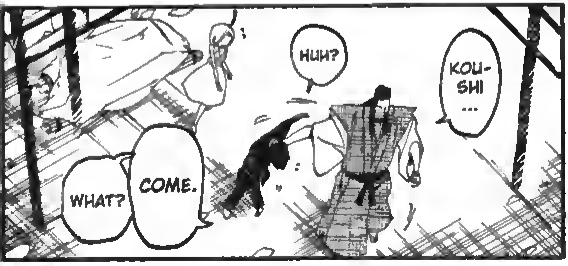

I DON'T WANT TO GET KILLED OVER SOMETHING LIKE THAT!

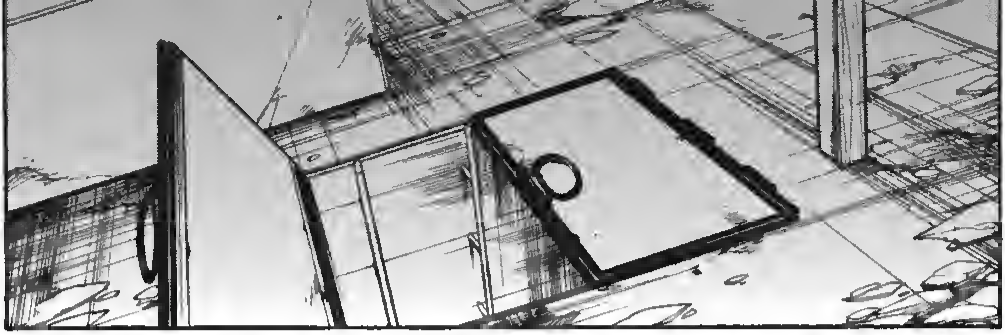

ALL THAT STUFF CAME FROM YOU!
...AND THIS ENGAGEMENT YOU SET ME UP WITH ...

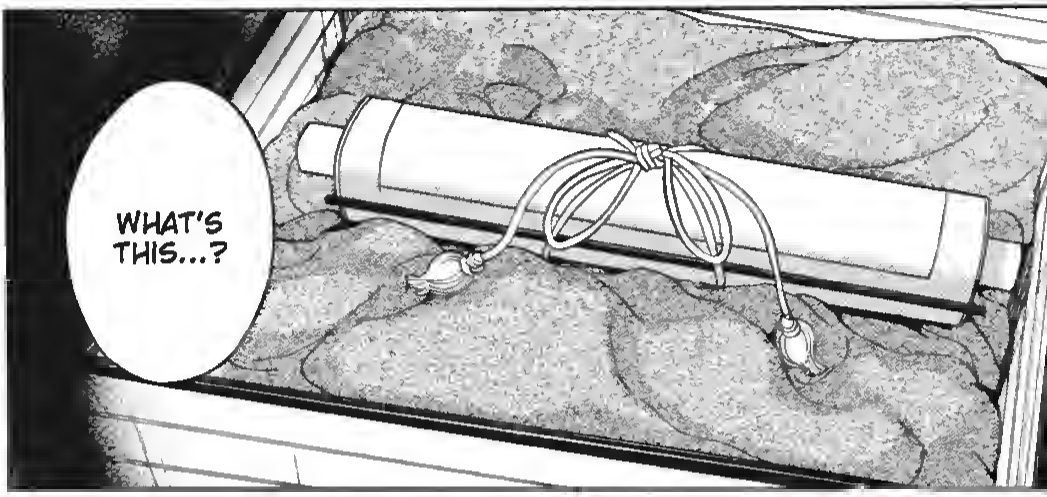
?

JUST COME WITH ME!

.....


HUH?
KOU-SHI ...
WHAT?
COME.




WHAT'S THIS...?

...OF BASARA FUDOU SHINGAN-RYUU MARTIAL ARTS.
THIS SCROLL CONTAINS THE SECRET ARTS...

MASTER THEM.
ぽかん
POKAN (DUHH)
...!?
H-
HUHI?
NO! WAIT A MIN-UTE!
YOU WANT ME TO LEARN MARTIAL ARTS? NO WAY, NUH-UH, I'M—
KOU-SHI.
HOLD YOUR TONGUE.

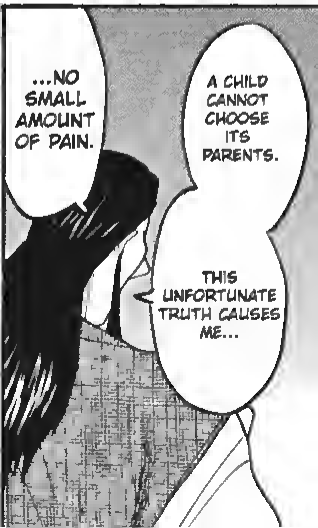
.....
.....
HOW-EVER...
.....
.....

YOU SPEAK WELL.
YOU ARE CLEVER.
YOU WISH TO BE A LAWYER.

!
ムカー!!
MUKAA (GRRR)

...YOU CANNOT USE THAT AS AN EXCUSE.

YOU ARE STILL MY SON!!
HOW-EVER!
KI! (KRRR)
DON (WHAM)

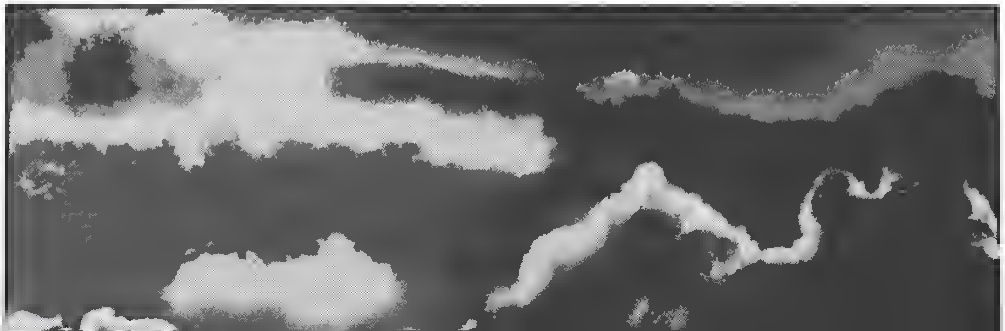

...NO SMALL AMOUNT OF PAIN.
A CHILD CANNOT CHOOSE ITS PARENTS.
THIS UNFORTUNATE TRUTH CAUSES ME...

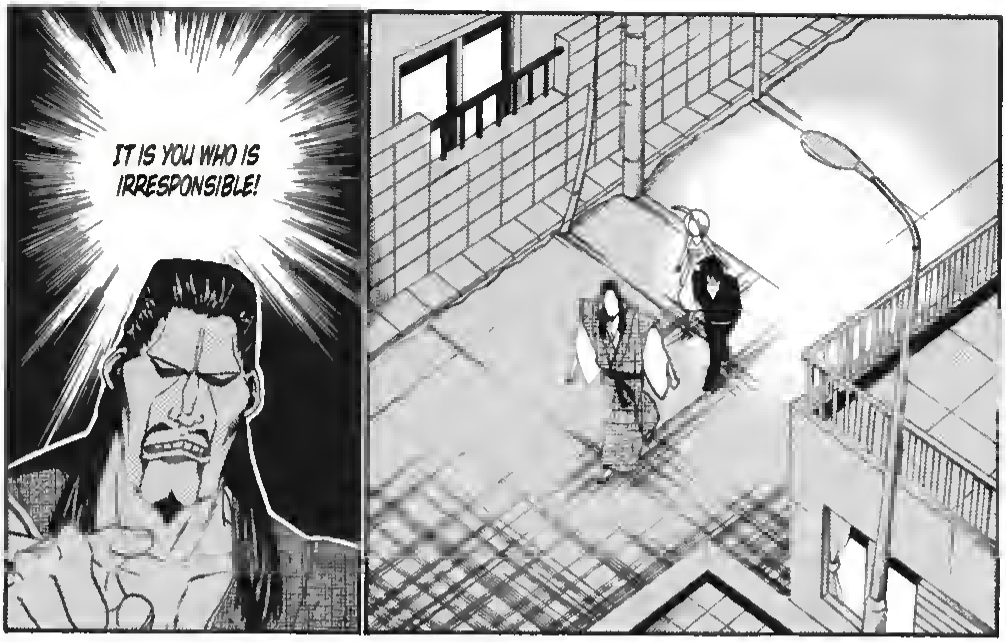
AND IF YOU DON'T WANT TO LOSE IT...
THAT IS YOUR LOT IN LIFE.
STRUG-GLE.
MOVE.
BE VIGI-LANT !!
WHY DO YOU NOT SEEK THE MEANS TO PROTECT YOURSELF !!?

IT IS YOU WHO IS IRRESPON-SIBLE...

...KOUSHI.

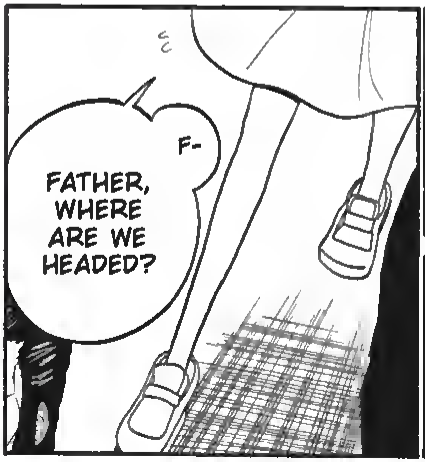
.....
.....



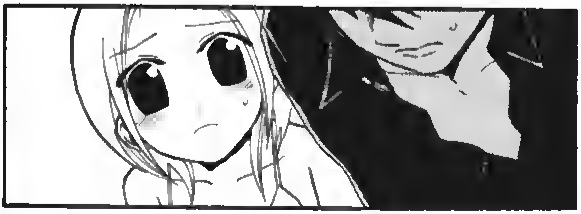

IT IS YOU WHO IS IRRESPONSIBLE!

...STRAIGHT OUTTA THE BLUE...
I DON'T GET WHAT HE EXPECTS ME TO DO, JUST SLAPPING THIS INTO MY HAND...

.....
.....


F-
FATHER, WHERE ARE WE HEADED?

.....
...IT'S TOTALLY INSANE...



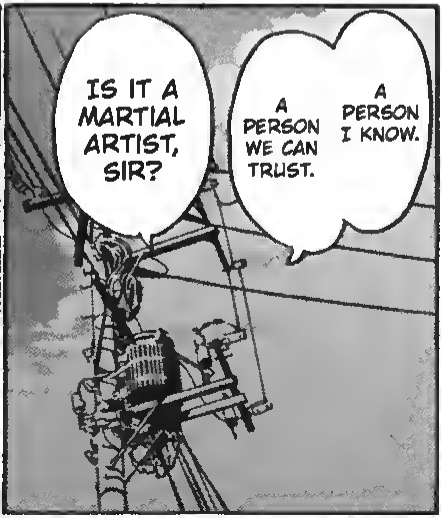
WELL, AS THE HOUSE IS GONE NOW...
AH, YES...

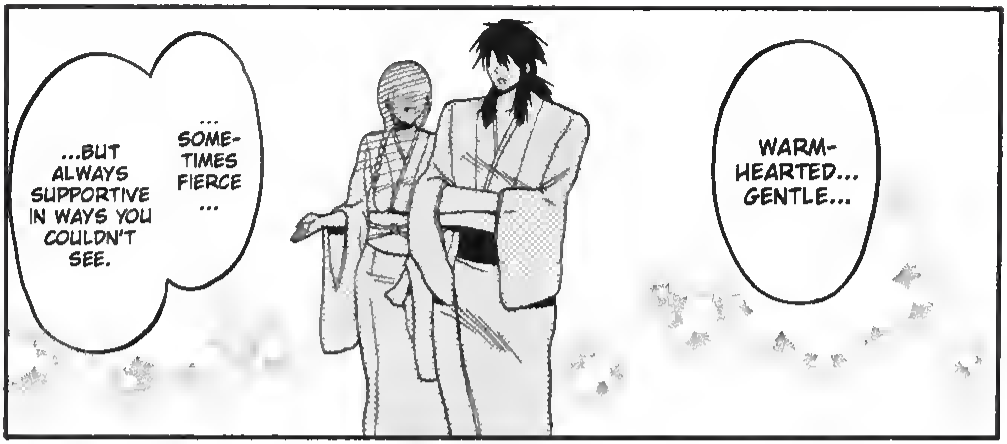
SOMEONE ELSE?

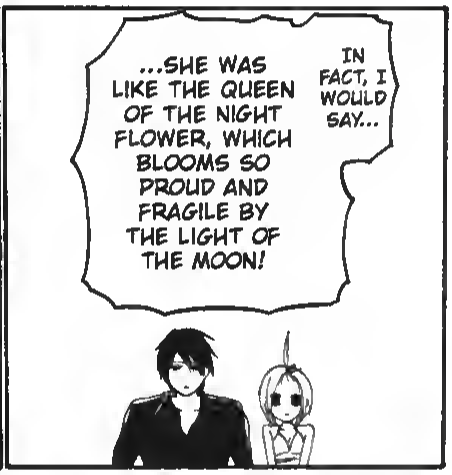
...I'M TAKING YOU TO STAY WITH SOMEONE ELSE.

...THAT'S NOT ENTIRELY CORRECT.
YES.
WELL, TO BE PRECISE ...

SHE IS A WOMAN I KNEW WELL IN MY YOUNGER DAYS.
?


IS IT A MARTIAL ARTIST, SIR?
A PERSON WE CAN TRUST.
A PERSON I KNOW.

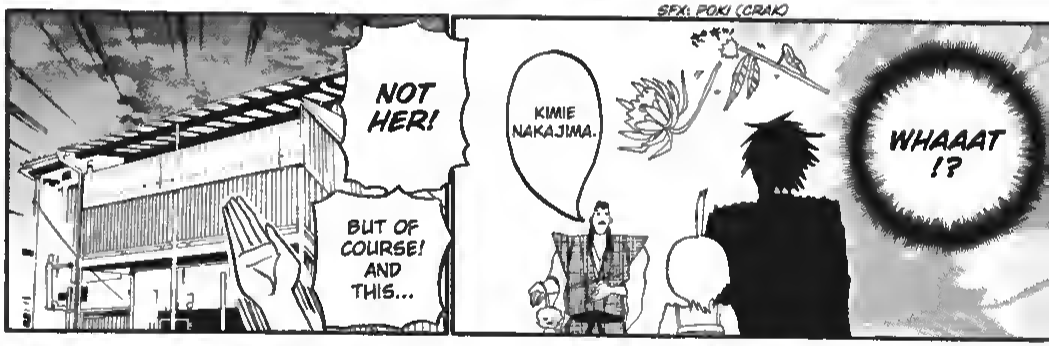

WARM-HEARTED... GENTLE...
...SOME-TIMES FIERCE ...
...BUT ALWAYS SUPPORTIVE IN WAYS YOU COULDN'T SEE.


IN FACT, I WOULD SAY...
...SHE WAS LIKE THE QUEEN OF THE NIGHT FLOWER, WHICH BLOOMS SO PROUD AND FRAGILE BY THE LIGHT OF THE MOON!

WHA—
IT CAN'T BE!!

AND HERE WE ARE!

HERE SHE IS!
YES!
UNKEN!



CHAPTER 22. FATHER'S WORDS – END / SUMOMOMO MOMOMO 3 END

TRANSLATION NOTES

Sumomomo Momomo is part of a well-known Japanese tongue twister which reads, "Sumomo ma momo ma momo no uchi," and roughly means,"Plums and peaches are part of the peach family."

Page 66
Toukaidou Line: A *shinkansen* (bullet train) line, the first of its kind, that runs from Tokyo to Osaka in Western Japan.

Page 112
Byakko: Also called the "White Tiger," Byakko is the Japanese name for one of the four principal Chinese constellations and its accompanying mythical god. The other three are Suzaku (Crimson Bird), Seiryuu (Blue Dragon), and Genbu (Black Tortoise).

Page 187
Sky above, sky below, I alone stand almighty, three realms of corporeal suffering, through me alone lies peace: This huge mouthful of a special attack name is a quote attributed to the Buddha in certain Buddhist texts. The Three Realms are the three worlds of Buddhist cosmology in which all creatures dwell. This quote (or at least the first part) has taken on a more secular meaning in contemporary Japanese, where it can refer to self-absorption and vainglory. In general, however, Unken Inuzuka's use of these quotes for his attacks is essentially for show. It's a bit like calling an imperious religious quotes for "biblical" effect, just in a traditional Japanese way.

Page 190
Six Worlds: The six different worlds in the afterlife according to Buddhism.

WHY CONTINUE TO FIGHT...
I CANNOT ALLOW THIS!!
...THROUGH PAIN, LOSS, AND SETBACKS...!?
I WILL PROTECT HIM...
FOR VENGEANCE? FOR FATE?

WHEN FEELINGS BURN BRIGHT AND HARD...

I'VE BETRAYED NO ONE!!

...PEOPLE STAND AND FIGHT!!

AM I... GOING TO DIE!?

HERE COMES THE BEGINNING OF THE GREATEST BATTLE ON EARTH!!

SUMOMOMO, MOMOMO

~THE STRONGEST BRIDE ON EARTH~

4

STAFF:
MAKIKO HORI
SHUHGO MURAKAMI
FUMIE ITOH
TAEKO SHIMADA
SEIKO KIZU

AUTHOR:
SHINOBU OHTAKA

INDARA GENMA-RYUU SECRET ART COMPENDIUM

CRESCENT SLICE

A SINGLE-BLADED LONG-DISTANCE SLASHING ATTACK. A CRESCENT-SHAPED SHOCK WAVE IS CREATED WITH A PERFECTLY STRAIGHT SWIPE FROM THE KATANA. WHILE IT IS SIMPLY COMPRESSED WIND PRESSURE, ITS STRENGTH CAN TEAR UP THE GROUND AND CRUSH ENEMIES.

DOUBLE-KILL MADARA SLICE

A DOUBLE-BLADED CLOSE-RANGE SLASHING ATTACK. THIS QUICK SIMULTANEOUS SLASH FROM TWO SWORDS WILL MOW DOWN ANY FOE WITHIN STRIKING DISTANCE. IF ATTEMPTED AT A DISTANCE, ITS SLOW SPEED RESULTS IN AN INTERVAL OF SEVERAL SECONDS BETWEEN THE RELEASE OF THE ATTACK AND ITS DEVASTATING ARRIVAL ON THE TARGET'S FLESH.

INDARA GENMA-RYUU ELIXER COMPENDIUM

MUSCLE ENHANCER

A QUAFFABLE NOSTRUM THAT DRAMATICALLY INCREASES STRENGTH, CORRODES MENTAL CONTROL AND LEADS TO INSANITY. ITS EFFECTS WILL WEAR OFF AFTER THE IMBIBER RECEIVES A STRONG PHYSICAL OR MENTAL SHOCK. THESE NEGATIVE CIRCUMSTANCES CAN BE MITIGATED THROUGH CAREFUL MONITORING OF ITS POTENCY.

THE STRONGEST NEE-SAN ON EARTH
IROHA MIYAMOTO

THE ONLY DAUGHTER OF THE CHIEF OF THE MIYAMOTO CLAN, ONCE THE MOST FEARED ORGANIZED CRIME FAMILY IN ALL OF JAPAN. SHE RISKS HER LIFE TO BRING ABOUT THE REBIRTH OF HER CLAN!

INDARA GENMA-RYUU MARTIAL ARTS

SNAKE SHADOW TOOLS OF DARKNESS

SECRET, TRADITIONAL CLAN WEAPONS USED IN VARIOUS METHODS OF ASSASSINATION. THE MEMBERS OF THE MIYAMOTO CLAN HAVE MASTERED THE USE OF THESE WEAPONS TO STRIKE DOWN THEIR FOES! THEY COME IN VARIOUS SHAPES AND SIZES, WITH USES RANGING FROM SLASHING TARGETS TO CONFUSING ENEMIES. THE TRUE LIMIT OF THEIR STRENGTH IS MUTABLE AND UNKNOWN.

SUMOMOMO MOMOMO③

Shinobu Ohtaka

Translation: Stephen Paul

Lettering: Terri Delgado

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

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